

Is Bridge really a game of skill?

It is a natural hypothesis that in any bridge competition some pairs will be stronger than others and that the stronger pairs will tend to be more successful. If this is true then in any two session competition those pairs doing well in the first session will tend to be those who come near the top of the second session. However recent results in Devon do not support this.

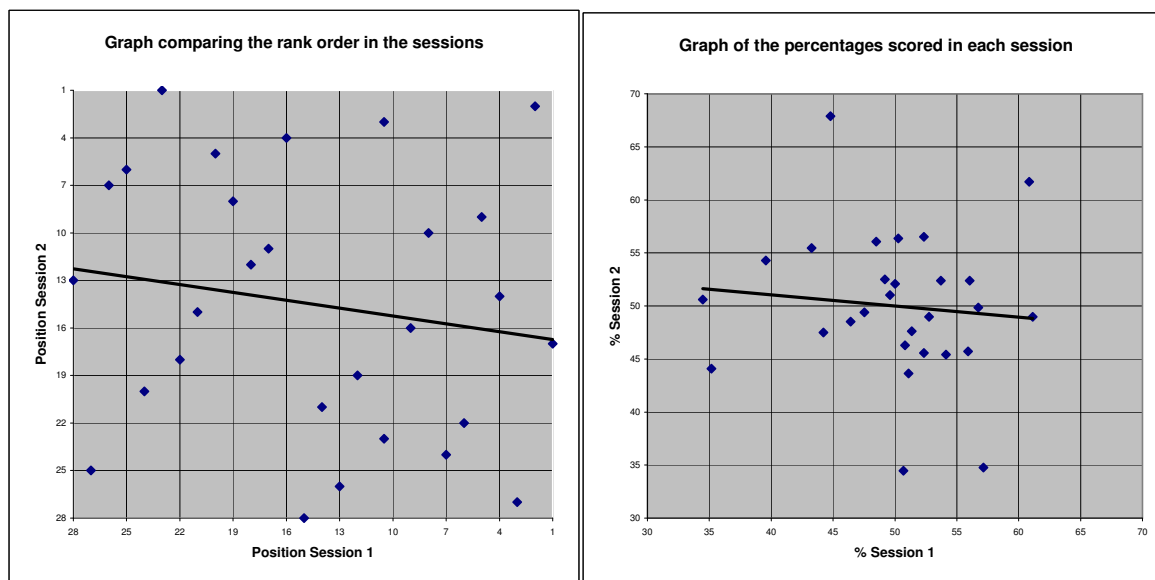
The John Woolcott Pairs, a Devon Bridge Association Victor Ludorum event, played at Exeter on 10 January 2011

28 pairs each played two boards against every other pair over two sessions

1st Session 28 boards Arrow switched Mitchell

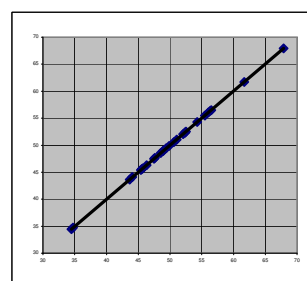
2nd session 26 boards interwoven Howell

The graphs show the total lack of correlation between the results of the two sessions

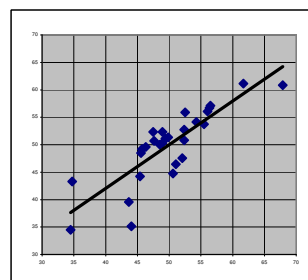


The trendlines shows a slight NEGATIVE correlation between the results in the two sessions

The small graph shows what the results would look like with perfect correlation, with the stronger pairs at the top in both sessions and the weakest at the bottom

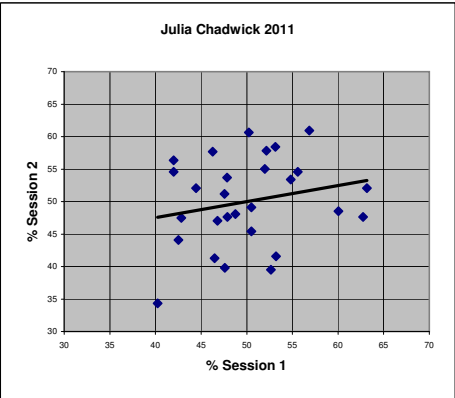
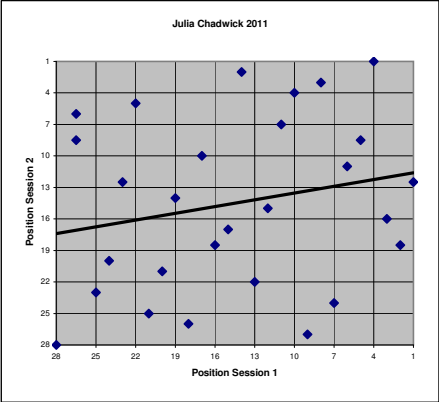


A more likely graph would be as shown here with not all pairs performing equally well or badly in each session, but with a strong positive correlation between the results of each session.

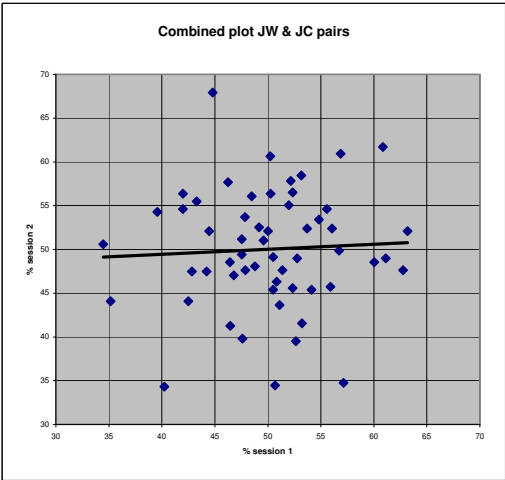


The Devon Pairs, The Julia Chadwick was played on 27 Feb 2011 with many of the same players involved.

Similar graphs of the results do show a weak positive correlation between results in the two sessions played but the pattern is still not as strong as might be expected.



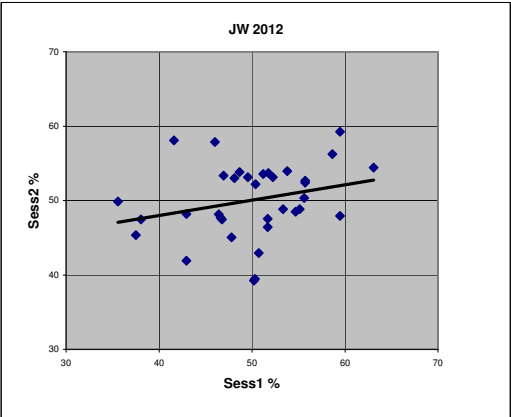
Plotting the results for both competitions together on the graph to the right shows that the negative trend in the John Woolcott results almost completely cancels the positive correlation between the Julia Chadwick sessions leaving the hypothesis that some Devon pairs are stronger than others and that stronger pairs are more succesful to be proved to be untrue.
(At least in early 2011)



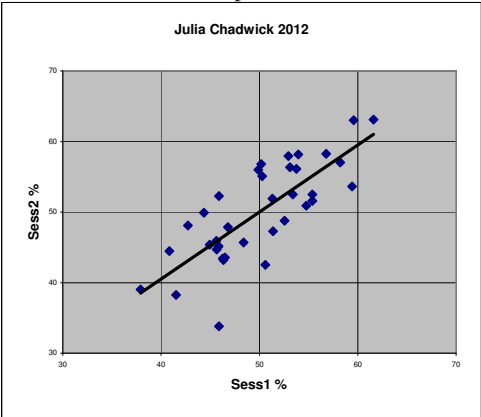
ADDENDUM March 2012

Results in 2012 show a more normal correlation between sessions.

The John Woolcott in January 2012
Weak but at least positive correlation



The Julia Chadwick in February 2012
Shows excellent positive correlation with a near perfect trendline



Full Results John Woolcott Pairs 10/1/2011

	Session 1		Session 2		Combined	
	%	Position	%	Position	%	Position
Alan & Jette Bailey	60.85	2	61.69	2	61.25	1
Bill Oke & Julian Foster	44.78	23	67.90	1	55.91	2
Jacek Pietrzycki & Terence Treeby	61.13	1	48.96	17	55.27	3
Carol Ritzen & Richard Carter	52.34	10=	56.51	3	54.35	4
John & Joy Murray Brown	56.04	5	52.37	9	54.27	5
Nigel Jackson-Mack & Paul Salmon	56.73	4	49.85	14	53.42	6
John Vaughan & Susan Gregory	50.27	16	56.36	4	53.20	7
Margaret & Robin Mardlin	53.71	8	52.37	10	53.06	8
Cherry Taylor & Wendy Davs	48.49	20	56.07	5	52.14	9
Dick Andrews & Gaynor Wiseman	50.00	17	52.07	11	51.00	10=
Ken Rowe & Vivien Peters	55.91	6	45.71	22	51.00	10=
Ann Husk & Pat Meade	52.75	9	48.96	16	50.93	12
Alison Pollok & Ann Slee	49.18	19	52.51	8	50.78	13
Andrew Leslie & Betty Golding	49.59	18	51.04	12	50.29	14
Gloria & John Lankshear	54.12	7	45.41	24	49.93	15
Celia Bishop & Vivienne Malby	51.37	12	47.63	19	49.57	16
Phil Palmer & Terry Cannon	43.27	25	55.47	6	49.14	17
Geoffrey Allsop & Mike Crelley	52.34	10=	45.56	23	49.08	18
Christine Maunder & Sandra Bennett	50.82	14	46.30	21	48.64	19
Inga Homewood & Robert Arnheim	47.53	21	49.41	15	48.44	20
Robert Mabley & Sally Green	51.10	13	43.64	26	47.51	21
Jean Whittlam & Nigel Hamlyn	46.43	22	48.52	18	47.44	22
Paul Guppy & Tony Hards	39.56	26	54.29	7	46.65	23
Ann Lake & Maureen Mills	57.14	3	34.76	27	46.36	24
Geoff & Nethie White	44.23	24	47.49	20	45.80	25
Alan & Barbara Rainford	50.69	15	34.47	28	42.88	26
Beryl House & Jenny Flood	34.48	28	50.59	13	42.24	27
Bob Blackmore & Elizabeth Highton	35.16	27	44.08	25	39.45	28

Full results Julia Chadwick Pairs 27/02/2011

	Session 1		Session 2		Combined	
	%	Position	%	Position	%	Position
Joy Pellow & Jacek Pietrzyck	56.86	4	60.95	1	58.98	1
Susan Gregory & Sandra Bennett	63.17	1	52.07	12=	57.29	2
Peter Bowles & Mike Orriell	53.14	8	58.43	3	55.89	3
Richard Lingham & Ann Slee	50.22	14	60.65	2	55.65	4
Andrew Leslie & Betty Golding	52.15	10	57.84	4	55.11	5
Ann Husk & Clare Hamon	55.58	5	54.59	8=	55.06	6
Mike Smith & George Simnett	62.76	2	47.63	18=	54.89	7
Dick Andrews & Gaynor Wiseman	54.83	6	53.40	11	54.08	8
Mike Crelley & Anne Hinkins	60.05	3	48.52	16	54.05	9
John Edwards & Alison Pollok	51.97	11	55.03	7	53.56	10
Steve Barretto & Sallie Green	46.25	22	57.69	5	52.20	11
Jim Grant & Stefan Lindfors	47.85	17	53.70	10	50.89	12
Mike & Enid Hamon	50.51	12	49.11	15	49.78	13
Maureen Baser & Ian Hopkins	41.99	26=	56.36	6	49.46	14
Geoff & Nethie White	47.55	19	51.18	14	49.44	15
Steve Quinn & Robin Barker	41.99	26=	54.59	8=	48.54	16
John Murray & Joy Murray Brown	44.46	23	52.07	12=	48.42	17
Ruth Edmondson & Brigid McElroy	48.77	15	48.08	17	48.41	18
David Clarke & Mike Gibson	50.50	13	45.41	22	47.85	19
Trish Avery & Inga Homewood	47.87	16	47.63	18=	47.75	20
Jean Harrison & Teresa Ratcliffe	53.21	7	41.57	24	47.15	21
Brian Cook & Graham Penney	46.79	20	47.04	21	46.92	22
Julian Foster & Bill Oke	52.63	9	39.50	27	45.80	23
Bob Blackmore & Elizabeth Highton	42.84	24	47.49	20	45.25	24
Terry Cannon & Nigel Jackson-Mack	46.46	21	41.27	25	43.76	25
Carol Ritzen & Richard Carter	47.60	18	39.79	26	43.54	26
Bill Ellis & John Harriman	42.50	25	44.08	23	43.32	27
Norman Massey & Don Pearson	40.22	28	34.32	28	37.15	28