

# DR MATHS

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**DEAR Dr Maths,  
Four married couples played a mixed-doubles tennis tournament.**

**No person ever played with or against any other person more than once, and no man ever played with or against his own wife.**

**Show how these six matches could have been played on the two courts on three successive days.**

**Suzie, Gateshead.**

Suzie enjoyed Maths on the Beach recently, along with 1,400 pupils from 30 schools.

She gave me this puzzle on the day and I thought it would be an interesting challenge to leave it unsolved and ask for readers to write in with their own solutions.

The first correct answer will win a copy of the book *More Mathematical Curiosities*, published by Tarquin.

Maths on the Beach was organised by Vicky Barnes from Sunderland City Council, a network of Sunderland primary school teachers and myself to raise awareness that maths is all around us – even if we are not always aware of it.

The mathematical walk along Seaburn beach encouraged children to observe, discover and

analyse maths in a real-world setting, as there is strong evidence to suggest that good quality learning outside the classroom enhances classroom learning.

In addition to the maths walk, the children were also encouraged to take part in a variety of activities. They created mathematical art with artists from the Baltic and played mathematical beach games.

This stimulated thought and experimentation into how many pebbles can be used to create a tower before it would fall.

They also collected resources from the beach to make a symmetrical or repeating pattern and designed a three-minute sand egg timer.

The day also included imaginative story and poetry writing. A number of children commented they did not realise there were so many interesting maths activities you could do on the beach!

Well done to Kath Cowell, from Washington, who correctly worked out that the average number of hours of sunshine was 10.1.

■ **Do you have a maths question or problem? Write to Dr Maths, Evening Chronicle, Groat Market, Newcastle, NE1 1ED, or e-mail [DrMaths@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:DRMaths@hotmail.co.uk)**

