



BRIGHTON FOCUS

Bulletin No. 3

Editors: Matt Betts & Krys Kazmierczak

Sunday 16 August 2009

RESULTS

Swiss Pairs for the Harold Poster Cup Standings after Session 3 (10 Matches)

Position		VPs
1	Jon Cooke & Martin Garvey	172
2	Ian Pagan & Chris Jagger	151
3	Brian Spears & John Murdoch	150
4=	John Howard & Andy Bowles	147
4=	Kathleen Nelson & Steve Eginton	147
6	Julian Mitchell & Peter Clinch	145
7=	Graeme Robertson & Tom Paske	144
7=	Neil Rosen & Derek Patterson	144
7=	Tom Hanlon & Hugh McGann	144
7=	Eddie Lucioni & Rob Lawy	144
11=	Sally Brock & Gilly Clench	143
11=	Roger Edmonds & David Stimson	143
13	Philip Stephens & Chris Cooper	141
14=	Alexander Allfrey & Andrew Robson	140
14=	Geert Dirks & Ella van der Sanden	140
16=	David Price & David Mossop	138
16=	Robert Glass & Jeremy Rickard	138
16=	Jeffrey Allerton & Frances Hinden	138
19=	Bernard Teltcher & Tony Priday	137
19=	David Greenwood & Anita Sinclair	137
21=	Gerry Stanford & Dave Franklin	136
21=	Jeremy Willans & Ian Draper	136
23	Richard Lingham & Ann Slee	135
24	Michael Keeping & David Benjamin	134
25=	Alan Kay & Andrew Macnair	133
25=	Ben Handley-Pritchard & Lara Ruso	133
27	Jonathan Green & Richard Hillman	132
28=	David Gold & David Bakhshi	131
28=	Michael Byrne & Bryony Youngs	131
28=	Michael Ranis & Richard Johnson	131
28=	Celia Oram & Derek Oram	131
28=	Tim Brierley & Mike Elliott	131
28=	Lynton Stock & Victor Silverstone	131
34	Manny Marks & Jerry Stamatov	129
35=	Neill Marcus & Jonathan Osgood	128
35=	David Herman & Artur Malinowski	128
35=	Margaret Curtis & David Sherman	128
38=	Jean Squires & Isobel Townley-Freeman	127
38=	Fiona Brown & Susan Stockdale	127
38=	Heather Dhondy & Jeremy Dhondy	127
38=	David Arundel & Andrew Bannock	127
38=	Dom Goodwin & Sarah Dunn	127
43=	Tracy Capal & Richard Eardley	126

43=	John Edwards & Alison Pollok	126
43=	Croz Croswell & Phil Godfrey	126
43=	David Cooper & John Williams	126
47=	Nigel Guthrie & David Barnes	125
47=	Ed Scerri & Chris Burley	125
47=	Peter Hall & David Beever	125
50=	Phil Thornton & Richard Palmer	124
50=	Barry Stoker & Gordon O'Hair	124
50=	Tony Waterlow & Ian Panto	124
53=	Roger Poulter & Matthew Smith	123
53=	Andrew Murphy & Ed Jones	123
53=	Nanette Gillespie & Tom Townsend	123
53=	Denis Bennett & Brian Senior	123
53=	Stephen Popham & John Pemberton	123
53=	Anne Catchpole & David Schiff	123

See page 8 for more results..



CONTENTS

Results	1
Welcome	2
Caption Competition	2
Bridge Dictionary	2
Photo of the Day	3
Results from Midnight Owls	3
Slam Happy	4 - 5
Hand Entry	5
Bridge Convention Anagram	6
Brighton Interview	6
John Armstrong Memorial Award	7
More Results	8
Today's Schedule	8

WELCOME

Welcome to the third issue of Brighton Focus - your new forum for news and views at the Brighton Congress. Brighton Focus will provide results, news and reports every morning.

Contributions to Brighton Focus are always very welcome and we have a contribution form available in the Durham Room for any interesting hands. If you need to contact us, leave a message in the contribution box at the bridge reception, or you can email: BrightonFocus@ebu.co.uk.

CAPTION COMPETITION

The winner of yesterday's competition is Lilian Tanner whose caption was: **"We pray that the hearts we have joined together at this congress may be strong. Let no splinter come between them. May their responses show true values, and result in a winning relationship, accepting no transfers. Bless and keep this pair's results in thy sight. Amen"**. Lilian wins a bridge book from our collection and can collect from the main EBU reception.

Like yesterday, if you have any good bridgey captions for the picture below (multiple entries are accepted), please place them in the suggestions box on the Brighton Focus table before 8:00 pm today, for your chance to win a nice bridge book.

Please don't forget to add your name, so that if you win we can include it in the next Brighton Focus, and we know who to give the prize to!



BRIDGE DICTIONARY

...well, an alternative one!

ACBL. An organisation which, like its national government, tries to dictate its policies worldwide.

A PRIORI. The practice of purchasing the first round in order to keep partner happy.

ACOL. The female cleavage when used to put off male opponents.

ACOL TWO-BID. An antiquated notion, by which means a player could show actual length and strength in the suit named.

AUCTION. A series of mental and physical contortions by which means a pair can accurately bypass the last making contract.

BALANCING. The attempts of a player to sit up straight. Often seen just before passing out.

BARON. A hand with less than 5 points and no 5-card suit.

BAVIN. A bundle of brushwood! (True)

BELLADONNA. The reason the Italian team turned blue.

BENJAMIN. An Israeli international who, with his brother Joseph, introduced the multi-coloured system.

BENNETT MURDER. The act of not playing dummy, or a defensive hand, to its greatest potential.

BLACKWOOD. A bid requisite in certain systems, used prior to guessing the final contract.

BOARD. In a duplicate event, the situation arising when not allowed to play at least half the deals as declarer.

Please let us know if you have any you would like to add! More tomorrow...

By kind permission of Larry Bennett, Bristol.

Shops

Want more bridge reading material? Want other bridge items?

We have a menagerie of shops, selling everything from cards to books, so please have a look!

PHOTO OF THE DAY



The first karaoke session starts off well with record numbers attending

Really, of course, this was the excellent Discuss it with an Expert with bridge writer and teacher, Andrew Robson. Can you spot yourself? Please don't forget that David Burn will be taking today's session at 11.00 am. See below.

Each morning, we will feature an interesting photo from the day before, either in full glory like this or on the front page! If you take any good photos, please let us know!



Top five results from Friday's Midnight Owls Speed Ball

Position		%
1	Emily Middleton & Michael Byrne	63.64
2	Jon Cooke & Graham Osborne	60.98
3=	Gordon Rainsford & Brian Powell	60.8
3=	Paul Belsten & Stuart Davies	60.8
5	Ian Angus & Chris Cooper	60.61

Discuss it with an Expert

11:00 am in the Cambridge Room

This morning's expert will be one of the country's leading players and bridge writers:

David Burn

Why not bring your problems from yesterday for some expert advice?

If you would like to advertise in Brighton Focus, please speak to either of the editors who can let you know availability and prices.

SLAM HAPPY

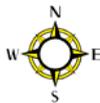
Aggressive bidding in the slam zone certainly paid off in the opening session of the Swiss Pairs event, with five of the six slams bid at my table succeeding.

The congress kicked off in spectacular fashion when Board 1 provided North/South with a 'grand' opportunity.

Love all. Dealer North.

♠ 10 8 7 6 5
♥ 5
♦ K Q 10 4
♣ A 5 2

♠ 2
♥ 7 3
♦ J 9 5 3 2
♣ J 10 6 4 3



♠ Void
♥ K J 9 6 2
♦ A 8 7 6
♣ K Q 8 7

♠ A K Q J 9 4 3
♥ A Q 10 8 4
♦ Void
♣ 9

If playing Lucas Twos or similar, North will open two spades showing less than opening values and 5/4(+) in spades and a minor, and after a double from East, South may have difficulty in finding out about the ace of clubs (which is all that is needed to make grand slam an excellent proposition) but will surely bid six spades.

If North passes then East will open one heart and South, who is far too strong to bid four spades, should start with a double. North will respond with a jump to two spades and now South can make a cue bid of four hearts, thus avoiding any ambiguity. (What would four diamonds or five diamonds mean for your partnership in this sequence?) North will co-operate with five clubs and now seven spades can be bid with confidence.

Board 10 was an interesting test of bidding and judgement for North/South:

Game all. Dealer East.

♠ A 8 7 4
♥ 6
♦ A K Q 9 3
♣ A 6 4

♠ 5
♥ Q J 9 5 2
♦ 10 6 5
♣ 10 9 7 2



♠ 9 6
♥ K 4 3
♦ J 8 7 2
♣ K Q J 5

♠ K Q J 10 3 2
♥ A 10 8 7
♦ 4
♣ 8 3

After a pass from East, South will open one spade and, if North responds two diamonds, may choose simply to rebid two spades. This will result in North asking for key cards and then judging whether to bid the grand slam or to settle for six spades. If South chooses to rebid two hearts, however, North will be unable to bid 4NT as this would be asking in hearts, and so will need to bid three clubs (4th suit forcing) in the hope that South's next bid will be three spades.

Many pairs play 2NT responses to one of a major as showing a good raise (either to game, or to at least 3), and in those cases the auctions will be completely different. After a 2NT response to one spade, a lot will depend on South's rebid. If opener timidly shows a minimum ('I only had ten points partner') then North may well settle for six, but if South correctly shows a non-minimum then North will check for key cards and then bid seven spades.

Notices

Need accommodation for Monday and Tuesday? One of our players no longer needs their room - only £70 for two nights. Please speak to Peter or Dawn if you're interested in taking the room.

Do you want to go and see Pearl Jam? We have been provided with two tickets for VIP seats at Tuesday's concert at the O2 in London. If you're interested, please let us know via our comments box. Winner picked at random.

SLAM HAPPY

(continued from page 4)

East / West had a chance to shine in the slam department on Board 23:

Game all. Dealer South.

♠ Q 10 8 3 2

♥ 10 7 3

♦ 6 2

♣ 9 5 4

♠ A 9 6 5

♥ A Q 8 6

♦ A 7 4

♣ K 3



♠ 7

♥ K 9 5 4

♦ Q J 10 5

♣ A 8 6 2

♠ K J 4

♥ J 2

♦ K 9 8 3

♣ Q J 10 7

Any pair playing a strong INT may have trouble reaching the top spot here, as it will be difficult for East to envisage a heart slam with ten points opposite a flat 15-17 (18).

If West opens one heart, however, the slam may be reached, and the spotlight falls on East!

Only the most timid would not force to game, and so the question is should East simply bid four hearts, should he bid four hearts via a delayed game raise (or a 2NT response), or should he splinter to show the spade shortage?

I firmly believe that if you have a 'feature' you should always show it, and given that most people play splinters as limited, East should not be reluctant to bid three spades despite the minimum nature of his game raise.

On this occasion a spade splinter is music to West's ears (or should that be music to his eyes when using bidding boxes?), and will probably result in reaching the six heart contract.

Ed Scerri

TRUMP PROMOTION

E/W Game. Dealer South.

♠ J 5

♥ A 4 3

♦ A J 10

♣ Q J 10 9 6

♠ A K Q 8 2

♥ J 9 6 2

♦ Q 4

♣ K 3



♠ 9 4 3

♥ 10 8 7 5

♦ 8 7 6

♣ A 8 2

♠ 10 7 6

♥ K Q

♦ K 9 5 3 2

♣ 7 5 4

W	N	E	S
			Pass
1♠	2♣	Pass	Pass
2♥	Pass	Pass	3♣
All Pass			

When East led a spade, West cashed two spade tricks and continued with the third top spade.

North slipped from grace by ruffing with the nine of clubs, and led the queen of clubs ducked round to West's king. West found the winning defence of a fourth spade, executing a classic trump promotion.

Ned Paul

PS: If you would like to contribute a hand from today's play, please fill in a form on the Brighton Focus table - all welcome!

SAFETY NOTICE

Please note that for health and safety reasons, the disabled lift at the hotel is only for the use of one wheelchair user and one other person.

Thank you for your understanding.

BRIDGE CONVENTION ANAGRAM

Each day we will be including an anagram of a fairly well-known bridge convention for you to puzzle over. The answer will be given in the next day's edition of the Brighton Focus. No hyphens or apostrophes are used.

Today's anagram is another classic:
a bold Cayman dockworker

Answer in tomorrow's Focus!

Yesterday's anagram of elude taut book was Takeout Double.

BRIGHTON INTERVIEW

Interview with Stuart McPhee – Friday 14 August 2009, Brighton

Stuart is a well-known bridge player currently active in the Oxfordshire area. You may have seen him recently captaining a team of bridge players on a TV quiz show.

Q: How long have you been playing bridge?

A: I have been playing bridge, frighteningly, for about 35-36 years, since I was at school. I was quite lucky, as two things happened. Firstly, we had someone come along from the local bridge club who was very keen on scientific methods, which appealed to me. He came to the school bridge club and gave us some lectures before we actually started playing. He also then invited me to play with him once a month or so at the local bridge club. As a schoolboy those things ensured that I was really hooked.

Q: Have you been to the Brighton Congress before?

A: Yes, I think I probably played here a year or two after I started with that partner I was talking about. We lived in Eastbourne, so it was quite a local event for us. So I think I came here first when I was about 16 or 17, and I've now been about 25 times.

Q: Do you think it has changed a lot over the years?

A: I don't suppose it has changed much. I think the standard has improved a lot, in the way that the standard of the game has improved all over the place. One of the things that is different for me is that, obviously, in the early days when I first came, I knew no-one. Now, partly because I have been a bit of a geographic nomad, and moved round the country from Yorkshire to East Anglia to Worcestershire to where I'm living now in Oxford-

shire, I've got to know lots of people. So one of the nice things about Brighton now is that you get a chance to see people again and catch up and say hello.

Q: What do you particularly like about the game of bridge?

A: I think I just like the intellectual challenge. I like things that make me use my brain, and I think it's a combination of the actual solving of the puzzle mixed with the psychological battle. So it's a kind of cross between chess and poker in that way. You've got the intellectual side but you've got the psychology of trying to outwit, fool or deceive the opponents. If all goes well, partner too!

Q: What bridge system do you play?

A: I play quite a Stone Age system most of the time: Acol, weak no trump, or mini no trump if I can persuade my partner, with four-card majors. It was quite interesting when we played in the Europeans recently. We were probably the only people playing that there. Nearly everyone was playing five-card majors and a strong no trump. We play ordinary Acol but we do add lots of things on. We add a Multi-2D, and two hearts and two spades [openings] are non-standard and other things. So there's lots added on, but the basic system is Acol with four-card majors.

Q: Do you have a favourite unusual bridge convention?

A: Well we've just added one to our system, which is quite amusing I think. We play an opening two spades as a pre-empt in either minor, and because three hearts and three spades are forcing over that, we think it's a good idea to have five clubs or five diamonds played by the strong hand, rather than the usual pre-empter. So we have just agreed to play that the two spade pre-empt followed by a four spade response says 'bid your minor by transfer', i.e. if your suit is clubs, bid four no trumps; if your suit is diamonds bid five clubs. There is the huge risk when that eventually comes up that the bidding goes two spades – four spades and partner will forget, but I hope not. So if five clubs played by the strong hand is the right thing to do, I don't think many people will be able to do that on standard methods. So we'll see how it shapes up.



JOHN ARMSTRONG MEMORIAL AWARD

We were all shocked and saddened at the sudden death of John Armstrong last July. He was a kind, accommodating gentleman amongst bridge players and men.

A few months ago Graham Kirby and I were driving home from a Crockfords match. We had just played against Paul Hackett and our conversation had naturally turned to the person with whom all of us were lucky enough to play bridge, John Armstrong. As we had a long way to go, Paul had asked Graham and me to think about the memorial trophy for John.

We briefly discussed how suitable the planting of trees in John's name and the annual winner's name was – as John loved the outdoors and orienteering. But it didn't take long for our conversation to shift to how different playing bridge with John was, compared to playing with anyone else. We shared stories about the spirit in which John played the game, and how he contributed enormously to British bridge. John was welcoming to anyone he met at the table, whether they had been playing for two months or he was playing against some of the best players in the world. John would encourage opponents who were total beginners and if they asked, he would take time to help them improve. At the same time, I remember him laughing and joking on the other side of the screen with the great Norwegian Geir Helgemo in the middle of the European championships.

Danny Davies

THE AUTUMN CONGRESS

A bridge tournament with a touch of luxury

We have moved the Autumn Congress to the Hilton Metropole Hotel, just outside Birmingham. We have not changed the bridge formula. The 4-session Two Star pairs event commences on Friday afternoon, while players who wish for more relaxed bridge can join in the Satellite Pairs on Friday evening or arrive for the Swiss Pairs on the Saturday.

Sunday will be a multiple teams tournament with the field dividing into sub sections in the evening. The playing conditions are excellent. Those of you who wish to stay at the hotel will find an ambiance of comfort and luxury.

With a choice of three restaurants and a bar, whether you fancy a meal or a snack, your taste will be well satisfied. For those who feel more energetic, there is a fitness centre and a fantastic indoor pool, as well as a jacuzzi and sauna.

Come to the Autumn Congress, at a venue not to be missed!

23-25 October

Several nominations were made for this new award, for people who play the game in the spirit of John Armstrong, and they were as follows:

Bob Blackmore (Devon)
 Michelle Brunner (Manchester)
 Simon Cochemé (London)
 Peter Crouch (Kent)
 Jonathan Davis (London)
 Bernard Goldenfield (Manchester)
 Mathew Hoskins (Sussex)
 Don Smedley (Derby)
 John Reavy (Derby)

The EBU endorses this award in John's name. It has been instigated, organised, and judged by Danny Davies, John Holland, Graham Kirby, Jack Mizel and Paul Hackett.

Bob Blackmore was announced as the winner of the first award yesterday by the EBU's Chairman, Sally Bugden. Two trees will be planted at Heritage Wood, Derbyshire: one in memory of John and the other in Bob's name.



Sally Bugden, Chairman of the EBU, congratulates Bob Blackmore

Bob Blackmore: Helen Foster writes, "Much of Exeter Bridge Club's success is attributed to Bob. A Grand Master, he partners players of any standard on a club evening and will encourage partner throughout, never failing to point out his own mistakes. His services to Devon are much appreciated, and the club bridge room was named after him."

MORE RESULTS

59=	Malcolm Pollack & Simon Pollack	122
59=	John Phelan & Lucy Phelan	122
59=	Eva Kater & Alex Hydes	122
	Bernard Goldenfield & Rhona Goldenfield	
59=		122
59=	James Chapman & Mike Wenble	122
59=	Steve Capal & Geoffrey Lederman	122
65=	Nalin Shah & Shivam Shah	121
65=	Gwynn Davis & Sue Ingham	121
67=	Iain Sime & Fiona McQuaker	120
67=	Mike Scoltock & Brian Powell	120
67=	Tony Clark & Andrew Thompson	120
67=	Duncan Happer & Ben Paske	120
67=	Wendy Miller & Jane Morton	120
72=	Graham Osborne & Richard Popper	119
72=	Brian Callaghan & Fiona Hutchison	119
72=	Philip Hunt & Yves Lebrec	119
72=	Mark Goddard & Andrew Bamford	119
72=	Alan Wearmouth & Tony Hill	119
77=	Anna Onishuk & Karel de Raeymaeker	118
77=	Olivia Woo & Alan Woo	118
77=	Andrew McIntosh & David Ewart	118
77=	Dimitre Stoev & Tim Gauld	118
77=	David Willis & Lesley Lewis	118
77=	Sandy Riach & Robert Elliott	118
77=	John Harrison & Nawal Fenwick	118
84=	Francis Eddleston & Julie Abley	117
84=	Maria Budd & Vernon Gaskell	117
84=	Arun Suri & Bob McRobert	117
84=	Louise Solomon & Warner Solomon	117
84=	Geraint Harker & Chris Simpson	117
89=	G Rangarajan & Bhuma Rangarajan	116
89=	Bernard Mitchell & Richard Farrer	116
89=	June Scotting & Wendy Coldham	116
89=	Ann Sharples & Robert Mott	116
89=	John Sansom & Richard Jephcott	116
89=	Amanda Potter & Michael Lucas	116
89=	Irene Robinson & Michael Huggins	116
96=	Carole Mueller & Herb Mueller	115
96=	Bill Taylor & Jim Deacon	115
96=	Jane Jensen & David Jensen	115
96=	John Dakin & Richard Harris	115
96=	Malcolm Robinson & John O'Sullivan	115

For the rest of the results, please look at the boards in the Durham Room.

Midland Counties Congress

****Diamond Anniversary****

8, 9 & 10 January 2010

The Bank House Hotel, Bransford, Worcestershire

Saturday & Sunday

Green Pointed

Pairs & Teams

60th Anniversary

Entry forms available soon from:

Darren Evetts -

Tel: 07977 481 399

Email: Enquiries@MidlandCountiesCongress.org

Web: www.MidlandCountiesCongress.org

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q. Is the scoring set up for each section or for the whole field?

A. Scores are match-pointed within each section, and those are the percentages that are shown on the Bridgemates.

Do you have a question for the Tournament Directors' team? Let us know using the contributions box.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

11:00 am Discuss it with an Expert - David Burn

12:30 pm Swiss Pairs, session 4 (4 matches)

8:00 pm Open Pairs and Open Teams

NEXT ISSUE

Our next issue will be published for tomorrow morning and will be available in the Durham Room. It will include a match report on Session 3 of the Swiss Pairs, interviews, results from Sunday, another picture for our caption competition, and much more.

Contributions to Brighton Focus are always very welcome and we have a contribution form available in the Durham Room for any interesting hands. If you need to contact us, leave a message in the contribution box at the bridge reception, or you can email: BrightonFocus@ebu.co.uk.