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Brighton Summer Congress

ASK a passer-by what images the mention of the seaside resort of Brighton conjures up and they will reply with, perhaps, party political conferences, or the mix of grand historic buildings, fashionable boutiques, and a buzzing nightlife. The burnt out pier, or the beautiful Lanes, perhaps even the London to Brighton cycling race. To a bridge player, Brighton means only one thing: the EBU's flagship event, the Brighton Summer Congress.

The first weekend: the Swiss Pairs



Simon Cope, who won the Swiss Pairs with John Atthey, and was also in the winning team in the Mid-week KO Teams

The Swiss Pairs took place on the first weekend, won by Simon Cope and John Atthey by an impressive margin of 15 VPs. Behind them there were several closely placed pairs including David Bakhshi and David Gold, whose 15-5 VP win over Jane and Andrew Moore was assisted by the following board. It is a perfect example of how the best pairs players can generate a good result from aggressive doubling followed by tight defence.

N/S Game. Dealer South.

	♠ K 9 8 6	
	♥ 8 3 2	
	♦ K Q 9	
	♣ 10 7 2	
♠ A 5 4		♠ J 10 7 3
♥ 10 6 5 4		♥ A K 7
♦ A 10		♦ 8 7 4
♣ A 9 5 4		♣ Q 6 3
	♠ Q 2	
	♥ Q J 9	
	♦ J 6 5 3 2	
	♣ K J 8	

West	North	East	South
Gold	J. Moore	Bakhshi	A. Moore
1♣ ¹	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT ²	Pass	Pass	2♦
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

¹ At least two cards
² 11-13 points

David Bakhshi realised that, with their combined point count, 1NT was very likely to make an overtrick, therefore defeating this contract by a trick would not be a good result for him, so despite holding just three diamonds (and his 1♠ bid had not denied diamonds) he gambled on a double.

The defence had to be spot on. A heart lead won by Bakhshi was followed up with a trump switch and continuation. The last trump was drawn, David Gold discarding a spade, and a heart was led to Bakhshi's ace. Provided the defence avoided leading clubs at any point they were assured of two tricks in the suit, so Bakhshi simply exited with a third heart. Declarer now tried the queen of spades, but Gold won, and again exited with the same suit that declarer had led. A club to the jack and ace left Gold with one further crucial exit card, the thirteenth heart, and declarer, stuck in hand, had to concede a club to Bakhshi. One down, and that was worth 158 match-points out of 158.

Mid-week: the Adams & Remers Mixed Pivot Teams

The congress begins and ends with one of the two main events on each weekend, the pairs and the teams. However, in between there is an increasingly popular selection of Mid-week events to participate in, one of which was the newly sponsored Adams & Remers Mixed Pivot teams. Adams & Remers are a local firm of solicitors, one member of which is the notable bridge player Geoffrey Wolfarth, who instigated the sponsorship, for which the EBU is most thankful.



Three of the Adams & Remers Mixed Pivot Teams winners: (from the left) Andrew Murphy, Bryony Youngs, Michael Byrne

The winners of this event were Bryony Youngs, Michael Byrne, Ben Green and Andrew Murphy. One feature of playing a pivot teams is that you will find yourself playing with unfamiliar partners, and when the big hands come along you may wish that you had all your usual agreements more fully discussed. The following grand slam board generated many results, from 2♦ (a misinterpreted Michaels' cue-bid) and 5♣ (a misinterpreted Exclusion Key-card bid), both failing, to the grand slam being bid and made. Our winners showed us all how to bid it:

Game All. Dealer East.

♠ A K Q 10 9 4
♥ A Q 10 9 8 6
♦ 9
♣ Void

♠ J 6
♥ 7 4 3
♦ J 6 4
♣ Q J 8 7 6

♠ 8 7 5 2
♥ J
♦ K Q 10 8 3
♣ A K 10

♠ 3
♥ K 5 2
♦ A 7 5 2
♣ 9 5 4 3 2

E/W Game. Dealer East.

♠ K 3
♥ 9
♦ A Q 10 9 6 3
♣ A Q 9 6

♠ A Q 10
♥ 6 4 3
♦ K J 7 5 4
♣ 7 4

♠ J 9 8 2
♥ K J 10 8 7 2
♦ 8
♣ 8 5

♠ 7 6 5 4
♥ A Q 5
♦ 2
♣ K J 10 3 2

Really Easy Congress

THE Really Easy Congress took place on 11-13 August alongside other Brighton events. It is a first step into the competitive world of bridge, made up of a mixture of play sessions and workshops, and on Tuesday morning everyone had an opportunity to try 'protective doubles' with Andrew Kambites.



After three days of 'really good play', George Wysocki and Margaret O'Donnell (in the picture above) came top of the Victor Ludorum chart.

Winners of the Pairs competitions (see front-cover pictures) were: Angela Adams – Leonie Pulford, Tim Hewson – Gloria Park, Leona Steenhuis – June Heard, Sandra Schneider – Stan Bennett, Alison McLean – Ina Oake, Tina Anderson – Roy Vining, Florence and Headley Moses, Emma Jackson – Pat Lewis, and Margaret O'Donnell – George Wysocki.

West	North	East	South
	Youngs		Byrne
		1♦	Pass
Pass	2♦ ¹	Pass	3♥
Pass	5♣ ²	Pass	5♠ ³
Pass	7♥	All Pass	

¹Michaels cue-bid (both majors)

²Exclusion Key-card Blackwood

³Two key cards (excluding ♣A), no ♥Q

Michael Byrne avoided the traps of playing in a Michaels' cue-bid, or in the Exclusion suit, and his 5♠ response was music to Bryony Youngs' ears, locating the only two cards she was interested in.

The second weekend: the Swiss Teams

One and a half days of Swiss served as a qualifier for the main and subsidiary finals, with the remaining teams continuing in the Swiss for a final day. The final was a strong event, won by the Kent team of Jeremy Willans, Ian Draper, Stuart and Gerald Tredinnick. The following deal gave the winning team a good result at both tables.



From the left: Stuart and Gerald Tredinnick, Jeremy Willans and Ian Draper

West	North	East	South
Stuart T.	Garvey	Gerald T.	Hill
		2♦*	Pass
3♥	4♦	All Pass	

At the 'Tredinnicks' table, Stuart's preemptive 3♥ bid left Martin Garvey with a nasty problem. A double would run the risk of partner jumping to four of a major (he didn't know Gerald's suit yet) so instead he chose 4♦. If it wasn't bad enough to miss the cold 3NT, 4♦ turned out to be a tricky contract with a bad trump break and was eventually defeated by one trick.

At the other table, the going was a little easier for Willans and Draper:

West	North	East	South
Howard	Willans	Bowles	Draper
		2♥	Pass
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Dble	All Pass		

When John Howard chose not to raise his partner's weak two, Jeremy Willans was able to bid a comfortable 3♦, which Ian

Draper converted to 3NT. The final double may look ill-judged, but John Howard knew that the opponents were only going to have the bare minimum in terms of high-card points, at best, given his partner's vulnerable opening. He also knew that the diamonds would not provide a source of tricks, and the fact that he had three hearts might also enable the defence to establish them and still have communication to cash them (if his partner held the ace). It was a bit of a gamble, but the reward could have been substantial – on a different day!

Ian Draper won the opening heart lead and finessed the queen of diamonds. When this held, he was assured of his contract. However, he figured that the spade ace had to be onside for the double, so he rubbed salt into the wound by playing for an over-trick, and led a spade to the king. Given the result at the other table, this bold play didn't in fact gain an IMP.

The result was 12 IMPs for the Willans team, who finished 10 VPs ahead of the field. Many congratulations to them. □