

# A Splendid Falsecard

David Bird

England faced Norway in the European Under-26 championship. Halfway through the event, which is decided by a round-robin, this deal arose:

Board 18      N-S Vul. Dealer East.

♠ Q 8 ♥ Q J 10 9 4 ♦ Q 8 ♣ K 5 3 2			
♠ 10 9 5 ♥ 7 5 3 ♦ A J 9 6 4 3 ♣ 9		♠ J 6 4 3 ♥ A 8 ♦ K 7 2 ♣ Q 10 8 6	
♠ A K 7 2 ♥ K 6 2 ♦ 10 5 ♣ A J 7 4			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Hegge</i>	<i>Paul</i>	<i>Grude</i>	<i>Roberts</i>
—	—	Pass	1NT
3♦	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Both sides reached the heart game, which can be defeated only by a club ruff. East led the ♦2 to West's ace. What should West do now? Suppose he switches to his singleton club. Declarer will win and play three rounds of spades, ditching his diamond loser. So, West has to return to partner's ♦K (leading the ♦3 as suit preference) and hope to receive a club switch from the other side of the table. The defenders will then score two diamonds and two trump tricks for one down.

What actually happened? East led a third-best ♦2 to West's ace and England's James Paul made the inspired falsecard of the ♦Q. From the opening lead, declarer was known to hold another diamond. No doubt concluding that North's remaining diamond was the king, West switched to a club. Away went the dx8 and the game was made, for the loss of one diamond, one trump and a club ruff.

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Paske</i>	<i>Bakke</i>	<i>Shah</i>	<i>Eide</i>
—	—	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

At the other table the contract was played by South and Tom Paske led the ♣9. Declarer won in his hand and played three rounds of spades, discarding a diamond from dummy. Shivam Shah won the first round of trumps and led the ♣6 (suit preference) for partner to ruff. Paske then returned the ♦3 to East's king to receive a second club ruff. That was 12 IMPs to England.