

Swiss Pairs for the Harold Poster Cup

Standings after Round 3

Position		VPs
1=	Michael Byrne - Mike Bell	57
1=	Ian Pagan - Chris Jagger	57
3=	Richard Winter - Phil Godfrey	56
3=	William Mason - Pauline Mason	56
5=	David Barnes - Nigel Guthrie	55
5=	Pat Dowdeswell - Mike Ribbins	55
7	Stefanie Rohan - Paul Lamford	54
8=	Mark Teltscher - Martin Hoffman	52
8=	Andrew Stimson - Anne Stimson	52
10=	Cecil Leighton - Monty Krimgoltz	51
10=	Simon Cope - John Atthey	51
12=	David Kenward - Mike Summers-smith	50
12=	Gabriel Hearst - Kenneth Benjamin	50
12=	Stuart Davies - Paul Belsten	50
12=	John Beard - Mike Hamon	50
12=	Chris Cook - Andy Fenn	50
12=	Jeremy Rickard - Robert Glass	50
18=	Malcolm Pollack - Jon Williams	49
18=	Clemency Schofield - Malcolm Lewis	49
18=	Waseem Naqvi - Gill Stock	49
18=	Nick Irens - Espen Erichsen	49
18=	Carole Mueller - Herb Mueller	49
18=	Abigail Nichols - Carl Nelson	49
18=	Derrick Kime - Mathew Kime	49
18=	David Turner - M Smyth	49
26=	Barbara Pinto - Douglas Dunn	48
26=	Pauline Cohen - Elizabeth Barnard	48
26=	John Holland - Michelle Brunner	48
29=	Tim Pike - Pat Barton	47
29=	Samantha Punch - Dee Harley	47
29=	Roger Poulter - David Howard-houston	47
29=	Alex Maddocks - Bill Godenzie	47
29=	Richard Lingham - Ann Slee	47
34=	Brian Robinson - Paddy Murray	46
34=	Paul Fegarty - Catherine Curtis	46
34=	Kathleen Nelson - Steve Eginton	46
34=	Bernard Goldenfield - Rhona Goldenfield	46
34=	Ron Webb - Carolyn Irvine	46
34=	Irene Robinson - Michael Huggins	46
40=	Alan Bailey - Roy Smith	45

40=	Edward Levy - Alex Morris	45
40=	Geert Dirks - Ella Van Der Sanden	45
40=	Cathy Smith - Andy Smith	45
40=	Dave Cropper - Steve Raine	45
40=	Kitty Teltscher - Debbie La Croix	45
40=	Luke Porter - Adam Dickinson	45
47=	Andrew Mundy - Mike Wren	44
47=	Anna Onishuk - Karel De Raeymaeker	44
47=	John Dakin - Richard Harris	44
47=	Patrick Jourdain - Diane Kurbalija	44
47=	Paula Hopkinson - Victor Savage	44
47=	Anja Alberti - Nikolas Bausback	44
47=	David Bakhshi - David Gold	44
47=	Addis Page - Liz Hayton	44
55=	Barry Stoker - Gordon O'Hair	43
55=	David Wright - Bridget Macdougall	43
55=	Sue Millard - Richard Millard	43
55=	John Murrell - David Beal	43
55=	Simon Creasey - Frazer Morgan	43
55=	Roger Courtney - Robin Cambery	43
61=	John Sansom - Jimmy Ledger	42
61=	Barbara Cohen - Janet Cohen	42
61=	Philip Thornton - Kevin Elstow	42
61=	Andrew Cairns - Nicholas Boss	42
61=	Varda Derwig - Richard Currie	42
61=	Richard Farrer - Bernard Mitchell	42
61=	Tim Rees - Filip Kurbalija	42
61=	Robert Elliott - Sandy Riach	42
61=	Dan Crofts - Frank Wharton	42
70=	Ray Cornell - David Clark	41
70=	Jon Cooke - Martin Garvey	41
70=	Alan Wilson - Nick Smith	41
70=	Marjorie Rumbelow - David Anning	41
70=	Anne Catchpole - David Schiff	41
70=	Manny Marks - Jerry Stomatov	41
70=	Peter Hand - Jean Hand	41
70=	Alan Brown - Mohamed Ramzy	41
70=	Michael Davis - Alison Gayfor	41
79=	Andrew Woodcock - Ollie Burgess	40
79=	Nicola Smith - Bryony Youngs	40
79=	James Mates - Marshall Lewis	40
79=	Gary Jones - Jerry Harouni	40
79=	Nick Woodcock - Sue Woodcock	40
79=	Alan Kay - Andrew Macnair	40
79=	Sandy Davies - Tom Gisborne	40
79=	Bernie Harrison - Dave Duffy	40
79=	Steve Bourton - Julia Brough	40
79=	Lynton Stock - Victor Silverstone	40
79=	Rod Oakford - Sue Oakford	40
79=	Alexander Allfrey - Andrew Robson	40
79=	Mike Eden - Carrie Eden	40

Today's Schedule

11.00 am	Discuss It With An Expert
1.00 pm	Swiss Pairs , Session 2 (4 matches)
8.00 pm	Swiss Pairs , Session 3 (3 matches)
Midnight	Night Owls Speedball (The YC Pairs)

Welcome

Welcome to the 2008 EBU Summer Meeting in Brighton. The EBU yesterday fell just short of matching the spectacle of yesterday's opening ceremony at the Beijing Olympics – very impressive. I for one will have half an eye on China for the next ten days.

It tends to be difficult to get much worthwhile copy on the first evening of the congress so I will only begin to seriously cover the Swiss Pairs in Bulletin 2, tomorrow morning. I trust, however, that you will find the bridge in today's edition interesting.

As for the rest of the week, the bridge coverage depends to a considerable extent on you, as I can only be in one place at any given time. So please, if you have a good story, whether a great triumph or a great disaster, let me know about it and you will get your fifteen minutes of fame.

Trivia Quiz I

In each case, who or what is the fourth, missing, member of these groups?

1. Zhang Chunqiao, Yao Wenyan, Wang Hongwen
2. Pete Townshend, Roger Daltrey, Keith Moon
3. Conquest, War, Death
4. Hurst, Hurst, Hurst
5. Mister Fantastic, Invisible Woman, Human Torch
6. Thymine, Guanine, Adenosine
7. Black bile, yellow bile, phlegm
8. Life means suffering; the origin of suffering is attachment; the cessation of suffering is attainable
9. Abraham Lincoln, John F. Kennedy, William McKinley
10. David Owen, Roy Jenkins, Shirley Williams

The New Laws Guide for TDs

12C1(c) The concept of 'weighted' adjusted scores becomes the norm in England. It has been in place since 2000 as an option but it now replaces the current law 12C2. 12C1(e) does not apply in England.

Example: Due to an infraction the TD disallows a score of 4♠ by E/W and puts it back to 4♥ by N/S. There is a 50/50 chance that N/S will make 10 or 11 tricks, so the TD can award 50% of 4♥= and 50% of 4♥+1. See the White Book p.27 for full details. An article will follow in a future English Bridge.

25B In the (1997) code there is a little known law that allows you to make a call and then 'change your mind'. It was quite a well kept secret and had a strange penalty where you could play for at most 40% after you

had done it. In the new laws that has gone. You can still make a 'mechanical error' and be allowed to change it (L25A) but you cannot change your mind. By and large a bid made cannot be changed.

27 This is both complicated to explain and understand and may be difficult to apply. There is a significant change to the insufficient bid law. The scope for allowing an insufficient bid (IB) to be replaced without silencing partner has been extended. The old rule of replacing it at the lowest legal level remains, provided that both bids (the IB and replacement bid) are natural. But there is now an added possibility, which comes if a replacement call can be found which has the same meaning as or a more precise meaning than the IB itself.

Confused? Well, Max Bavin has come up with a useful question that TDs should ask, which might help to make it easier to decide. Would all hands making the replacement call also have made the original call in correct circumstances? If the answer is yes, then the change is allowed.

Here are a few examples:

West	North	East	South
1♣	1♠	1♦	

East/West play Precision Club, so 1♣ shows 16+ HCP and, without interference, 1♦ shows 0-7 HCP. Can East replace his 1♦ bid by Double if he has 5-7 points? They play that over interference Pass shows 0-4 HCP and Double 5-7 HCP.

Would all hands playing Precision Club that would now Double also have bid 1♦ without interference? Yes, so the change can be made and partner can continue bidding. Note that in this case Pass would also be okay if East had 0-4 points.

West	North	East	South
(Other Bids)			
4NT	5♦	5♣	

4NT was Blackwood, East missed the 5♦ bid and 5♣ showed 0 or 4 aces. East/West play DOPI over intervention (Double shows no ace, Pass shows one ace). Can East replace 5♣ by Double? Yes, all hands that would Double to show no ace would also have bid 5♣ without the interference.

40 This law confirms a number of things already in EBU regulations. It also confirms that you cannot have any aide-memoires or aids to calculation. So you cannot, for example, during the play, take out the bidding card to see what 4♥xx +2 will score for you.

61B3 There is a consequence of defenders asking each other. If the defender has revoked, it is NOT established. The card played in error is withdrawn and becomes a major penalty card (see law 50) and the

offender substitutes a legal card. Cards played after the revoke but before the correction may be changed (see Law 62C).

Note that if the defenders ask each other and the answer is 'no revoke' there is risk of unauthorised information.

64 The criteria for transferring tricks after an established revoke are changed. The TD no longer has to look at whether 'an additional trick was won by the offending player with a card that could legally have been played to the revoke trick'. Instead he adjudicates either two tricks or one trick as now. In case the non-offending side loses out the TD looks to see whether equity has been served. It always was the case, but it is now even more important that the TD considers it.

70 The claim laws acknowledge that, even though play should cease after a claim, it often does not and the TD is given help on how to proceed.

70, 71 The claim and concession laws still refer to action that would be careless or inferior for the class of player involved, but the bit about being 'irrational' has been removed.

80 The Laws recognise a body called the Tournament Organiser which could be the Club, the County Association, a Congress or Holiday Organiser, or the EBU itself, and sets out the duties and responsibilities. It replaces the Sponsoring Organisation in the current laws.

European Championships 2008

Europe holds its Zonal Qualifying Championships in the year before the World Championships, so June 2008 saw the qualifying event for the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup and Seniors Bowl which will not be held until the end of August 2009, in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Europe qualifies six teams in each series. Traditionally, all three European Championship events have been played as a complete round robin, with no knockout stage. In 2008, this format was again followed for the Women's and Seniors' events, for which there were 25 and 20 entries respectively.

The Open series has been getting bigger and bigger with each successive championship, and for the first time a new format was used, splitting the 38 teams into two groups of 19. Each group played a round robin, at the end of which the top nine went through to the second stage, making an 18-team final group. That final group went on to play a new round robin, with no carry-forward from the first stage, the winners becoming European Champions and the top six qualifying for Sao Paulo.

The Seniors event saw Turkey win its first ever European Championship in any series, followed by Sweden, Belgium, Poland, the Netherlands and Italy. Italy took the sixth and last qualifying spot on a split tie from England, courtesy of their win in the direct match between the two teams – unlucky for our team. Just how close the finish was can be recognised from the fact that Denmark and France came just one and two VPs respectively behind the two joint sixth-placed teams.

France won the Women's Championship ahead of Italy and surprise team Spain. The remaining qualifiers were Sweden, Germany and Denmark, with Poland, the Netherlands and England close behind in ninth, England having spent part of the final round in a qualifying position.

The qualifying stage of the Open saw only one real shock, 2006 silver medallists Ireland failing to make the cut. England qualified on a split tie but the second stage of the Championship was a disappointment and they finished in 12th place. Norway are the new European Champions, though with a significantly changed team from that which had won the Bermuda Bowl in Shanghai nine months earlier. The other qualifiers were Russia, Germany, Bulgaria, Italy and the Netherlands.

Perennial champions, Italy, had been only tied for sixth place going into the final round. Perhaps the new format could be part of the cause of their struggle, but the main change from recent years was that the team included a playing sponsor, at the expense of the highly rated Nunes/Fantoni. It will be interesting to see what the Italian Federation's attitude will be to team selection/trials in 2009. They have got into the habit of winning or coming very close to doing so, and will not be happy to send an uncompetitive team to Sao Paulo.

Italy won their first match of the tournament against Switzerland by 17-13 VPs, the entire margin of victory coming on this deal:

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ 5 ♥ A J 8 7 6 4 ♦ K Q 2 ♣ J 5 4	♠ A Q 6 4 2 ♥ K 10 ♦ A 10 8 6 ♣ A 7	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ K 9 7 ♥ – ♦ J 9 7 4 3 ♣ K 9 8 3 2
N						
W E						
S						
♠ J 10 8 3 ♥ Q 9 5 3 2 ♦ 5 ♣ Q 10 6						

West	North	East	South
–	Lauria	–	Versace
1♥	Dble	INT	Pass
Pass	4♣	All Pass	2♠

In the other room the Swiss declarer went one down in the same contract so there was an opportunity for Versace.

The opening lead was the king of diamonds to dummy's ace. Versace ruffed a diamond then led a low heart, putting in the ten when West played low. East ruffed and played back a diamond, which Versace ruffed. Now he made an error. With West having shown up with the red honours, the bidding pretty well marked East with the black kings. So Versace played a club to the ace and a club back towards his queen. East went up with the king of clubs and played a fourth diamond. Versace ruffed and West in turn erred when he pitched a heart rather than his third club.

Versace could now cash the queen of clubs, throwing dummy's heart loser and just conceding a trick to the ♠K to make his contract and pick up 12 IMPs. Had West thrown the ♣J on the fourth diamond, the ♣Q could not have been cashed and the defence would have eventually come to the ♥A as well as the ♠K for down one.

As Patrick Jourdain noted in the Daily Bulletin, at the point where Versace played ace and another club, he should instead have played a heart towards the king, and the defence is powerless. If West plays low, East can ruff but then the ♠K falls under the ace. If West instead rises with the ace of hearts and plays a third heart, dummy's club loser goes away as East ruffs, and again the ♠K falls under the ace. And lastly, if West wins the ♥A and switches to a club, declarer rises with dummy's ace, cashes the ♠A and ruffs the last diamond, then throws dummy's club loser on the ♥Q.

The Netherlands were another of the Open qualifiers. On this next deal Sjoert Brink and Bas Drijver landed in the wrong game and were in danger of conceding 11 IMPs as their Czech Republic counterparts had chalked up +460 in 3NT at the other table.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ A Q 8 6 ♥ 10 9 3 2 ♦ 8 ♣ 9 8 7 2	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ J 5 ♥ J 7 5 ♦ 10 7 6 4 ♣ Q J 6 5	♠ — ♥ A K 6 4 ♦ A K Q J 9 5 3 ♣ K 10
	N											
W		E										
	S											

West	North	East	South
—	Drijver		Brink
3♠	—	Pass	2♣
Pass	4♠	Pass	4♦
Pass	5♦	All Pass	5♣

On any other lead, 5♦ would have been makeable, but West found the killing lead of his singleton trump. Now Brink had two clubs and one heart to lose. He drew trumps and cashed the ace of hearts. West did not see what was coming and played low without much thought, only to find himself on lead and endplayed when Brink continued with a low heart to the now bare queen.

It didn't matter which black suit West chose to lead, 5♦ was home and Brink had held the loss on the board to just 2 IMPs.

Had West held queen-to-three hearts, it would have been necessary to lead out three rounds of the suit rather than duck the second round, but the 3♠ overall suggested that West would be shorter in hearts, hence the actual play chosen. Very nicely played.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ K Q 7 5 4 2 ♥ K ♦ 8 6 5 4 ♣ J 4	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ J 9 6 3 ♥ A 6 ♦ A K 10 7 ♣ A Q 2	♠ — ♥ Q J 10 7 3 2 ♦ Q J 9 3 2 ♣ 10 7 ♠ A 10 8 ♥ 9 8 5 4 ♦ — ♣ K 9 8 6 5 3
	N											
W		E										
	S											

West	North	East	South
Danailov	Garvey	Karkolev	Carroll
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	6♠	All Pass

The Bulgarian pair had an artificial auction after West's opening multi 2♦ and, with South on lead, he had no reason to double; so declarer had no clue about the diamond void.

South led the eight of hearts to dummy's king and declarer played the jack of clubs to the ace, threw West's remaining club on the ace of hearts, then ruffed a club and continued with the king of spades. When that held the trick he continued with a spade to the jack and ace. South returned his last trump to declarer's queen. Declarer played a diamond to the ace and was one down.

West	North	East	South
McGann	Isporski	Hanlon	Kovachev
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♦	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♠	Dble
Pass	Pass	6NT	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Again West opened with a multi then showed a maximum but, as he bid spades to do so, he was about to become declarer in 6♠, so the Bulgarian South made a Lightner double for an unusual lead. Ireland's Tom Hanlon judged to correct to 6NT, doubled by North, against which South led a low club. Declarer put up dummy's ♣J and that, of course, held the trick. He continued with the ♠K, ducked, a spade to the jack, also ducked, and a third spade to the ace. South exited with a heart to dummy's king and the key moment of the hand had arrived. Surely South's double of 6♠ indicated a void somewhere, and that somewhere had to be diamonds, so declarer should have taken an immediate diamond finesse. Instead, he played a diamond to the ace and had to go one down to lose 2 IMPs instead of gaining 15.

Not everyone was as unhearing as the Irish declarer:

West	North	East	South
<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Jovanovic</i>	<i>Angelini</i>	<i>Djurucic</i>
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	5♠	Pass
6♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

In the other room, Serbia stopped in 4♠ and made 11 tricks for +450. Here, the Italian pair reached the slam and South duly doubled. Alas, for North, he had a suit longer than diamonds and judged to lead a heart. Antonio Sementa won the king of hearts and played the queen of spades. South won the ♠A and returned a heart. Sementa won the ♥A, pitching a club from hand, drew trumps and led the four of diamonds. When North followed low he called for dummy's seven and had 12 tricks; +1210 and 13 IMPs.

We have already seen Sjoert Brink saving his side with excellent declarer play. On this next deal his partner, Bas Drijver, was the star.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
	<i>Drijver</i>		<i>Brink</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦
1♥	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

The 1♦ response showed 0-7, 1♣ being a two-way bid, Polish style, either strong and artificial or a weak no trump. INT showed 18-19 and 3NT was the natural conclusion to the auction.

East chose to ignore his partner's overcall and, rather than lead a heart, tried a top diamond. Drijver carefully unblocked the ten, setting up a third round finesse against the nine. East didn't like what he saw in dummy so switched to the eight of hearts to declarer's queen. Drijver could work out that West must have six hearts and the ♠K so he next tried to cut defensive communications by playing a low spade. Drijver won the heart continuation and cashed the top spades then played the ♦J, ducked. East had to win the next diamond and, though he had the last spade to cash, was then end-played to give dummy an entry to the diamonds and to take the club finesse.

Drijver was the only declarer in the event to make 3NT on this deal.

World champion Geir Helgemo was the hero of this next deal.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
	<i>Helgemo</i>		<i>Lund</i>
—	—	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

In the other room the Polish declarer in 6♣ won the diamond lead, drew trumps and ran the queen of hearts to the king. He ruffed the diamond return and cashed the ace of hearts, having to concede one down when the heart position came to light.

This was a common fate for those who played in 6♣, though a couple of declarers succeeded via the double heart finesse.

Helgemo too won the diamond lead, drew trumps and led the queen of hearts. However, when West played low, he judged that it was almost impossible that the

defender would have king-jack to four hearts and play low so easily. He therefore rose with the ace of hearts and, when the king fell, had twelve tricks for +1370 and 16 IMPs to Norway. Of course, the contract would still have made on any three-two heart split or if East had held king-jack to four.

Declarer could always have made this next contract but he took a normal decision which didn't work out and now had to find a way to recover.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

	♠ 10					
	♥ 10 8 5 4					
	♦ K 10 8 5 4					
	♣ K 10 5					
♠ A J 9 8 7 ♥ A Q 7 6 ♦ 3 ♣ A Q 7	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ K 5 3 2 ♥ 9 3 2 ♦ 7 6 ♣ J 8 6 3	
N						
W E						
S						
	♠ Q 6 4					
	♥ K J					
	♦ A Q J 9 2					
	♣ 9 4 2					
West	North	East	South			
<i>Bareket</i>		<i>Roll</i>				
1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass			
4♠	All Pass					

Israel's Ilan Bareket opened 1♠, then went on to game facing Yossi Roll's pre-emptive raise. The defence began with a diamond to the ace and a diamond back. Bareket ruffed and played the ♠A and a spade to the king. Having misguessed the trump suit, it appeared that there were four losers, but Bareket found the solution.

Bareket took the club finesse and back came a second club, which he won in dummy with the jack. A heart to the queen was followed by the aces of hearts and clubs and then declarer exited with a trump to South's queen. Down to nothing but diamonds, South had to give a ruff and discard and away went dummy's heart loser; ten tricks.

England's Justin Hackett defeated a cold contract on this next deal with a well-timed duck.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

	♠ Q 10 9 8 5					
	♥ 3 2					
	♦ A 8					
	♣ A J 4 2					
♠ A 4 2 ♥ Q 10 9 7 5 ♦ 7 5 2 ♣ 8 3	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ J 6 3 ♥ K J 4 ♦ K Q J 9 6 ♣ 9 7	
N						
W E						
S						
	♠ K 7					
	♥ A 8 6					
	♦ 10 4 3					
	♣ K Q 10 6 5					

The Turkish North/South pair did very well in the bidding, avoiding the doomed 3NT to play in 5♣ by South.

Justin led a heart. It all looks plain sailing for declarer – win the heart, play a trump to dummy, then a spade to the king and ace. When you regain the lead, draw trumps and play ♠Q and ruff one and that is 11 tricks.

Sure enough, declarer won the heart and played a club to dummy then a spade to the king, but Justin ducked! Declarer continued with a spade to the ten and jack and, after the defence had cashed a heart and switched to a diamond for dummy's ace, drew the remaining trumps and led the ♠Q. He had to guess the spades to make his game but, of course, 'knew' that the ♠A was with East, so confidently took the ruffing finesse, and was down two.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

		♠ K 6 2				
		♥ J 7 3				
		♦ A Q 10 7 6 5				
		♣ J				
♠ A Q J ♥ 5 4 2 ♦ K J ♣ Q 10 7 6 4	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ 7 5 4 ♥ A 9 6 ♦ 9 8 ♣ A K 9 5 3	
N						
W E						
S						
		♠ 10 9 8 3				
		♥ K Q 10 8				
		♦ 4 3 2				
		♣ 8 2				
West	North	East	South			
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Jagniewski</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Kwiecien</i>			
1♣	1♦	2♣	Pass			
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass			
West	North	East	South			
<i>Gierulski</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Skrzyczak</i>	<i>Duboin</i>			
1♣	1♦	2♦	Pass			
2♥	Pass	3♦	Pass			
3NT	All Pass					

Double dummy, there are a leads which defeat 3NT, but both Norths led a low diamond to declarer's jack. Both declarers cashed five rounds of clubs and North was squeezed. He could throw his hearts and one spade, but then the ace of hearts would force him to either throw a diamond, when declarer could endplay him by exiting with a diamond, eventually getting a spade lead into the ace-queen, or a spade, baring the king.

For Italy, Bocchi threw a diamond, but Boguslaw Gierulski, for Poland, duly found the diamond exit and Bocchi had to give him the last two tricks for nine in all.

For Poland, Rafal Jagniewski bared the king of spades, which looks to be the best hope for the defence, but Alfredo Versace had seen South discard a spade also and read the position correctly, playing a spade to the ace to drop the king and make an overtrick; 1 IMP to Italy.

This last deal saw a battle between declarer and the defence, with differing outcomes around the Championships.

On the evidence of these Championships, the European teams will be a force to be reckoned with in next year's Bermuda Bowl.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ 9 4 ♥ 7 3 2 ♦ A J 10 3 ♣ K 7 6 3	♠ A 10 8 7 5 ♥ Q 9 6 5 ♦ Q 7 2 ♣ 9 <table border="1" style="margin: 0 auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td><td style="padding: 2px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W</td><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table> ♠ 3 2 ♥ K J 8 4 ♦ 9 8 6 ♣ Q J 10 4	N	E	W	S	♠ K Q J 6 ♥ A 10 ♦ K 5 4 ♣ A 8 5 2
N	E					
W	S					

Three No Trump was the popular spot, usually played by East.

Against Geir Helgemo, the Russian South led a perfectly reasonable queen of clubs. Helgemo won the ace and returned a club, South playing the ten and dummy winning the king. Helgemo led a spade to his king, a diamond to the ace, then played the jack of diamonds to the queen and king. He cashed two more diamonds and led another spade, ducked to his queen. After conceding a club he had ten tricks for +430.

In the other room, system had placed the contract in the West hand. Here it was normal for North to lead a low spade. Declarer won the spade in dummy and immediately played on clubs. When they failed to divide evenly, he had broken his communications in the process and could no longer play diamonds for four tricks, even with a winning guess in the suit, so was two down for -100 and 11 IMPs to Norway.

In Poland v Germany the contract was again 3NT at both tables. For Poland Michael Kwiczen led the queen of clubs. Declarer Entschow Wladow ducked, so Kwiczen continued with his low club and dummy's six won the second trick.

Declarer led a spade to his queen, cashed the ♣A, then crossed to the ♣K and played a second spade off the dummy. North had to duck again so the king won this trick. With five black tricks, declarer simply required three diamond winners for his contract which was, of course, no problem; +400.

In the other room, Jerzy Skrzypczak won the club lead in hand and immediately took the diamond finesse. Germany's Michael Gromoeller ducked smoothly as he was unsure to which major he should switch if he won the trick, so now Skrzypczak played a spade to his jack, cashed the ♦K, and took the 'marked' diamond finesse. When Gromoeller won the trick he knew that a heart switch was required and the contract was down two for -100 and 11 IMPs to Germany.

Trivia Quiz I Solutions

1. Jiang Qing (Mao's widow) – The Gang of Four
2. John Entwistle – The Who
3. Pestilence – Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse
4. Peters – England goals in 1966 World Cup Final
5. Thing – The Fantastic Four
6. Cytosine – bases in DNA
7. Blood – humors in ancient and medieval medicine
8. The path to the cessation of suffering – the four Truths of Buddhist teaching
9. James Garfield – Assassinated US Presidents
10. Bill Rogers – Social Democrat Gang of Four

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:

Andrew Robson

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

Bookstalls

This is your chance to stock up on bridge reading material, with three excellent bookstalls present at the congress.

Bridge Magazine, in the shape of Mark Horton, will be here both weekends, while Brian Senior's stall is open throughout the ten days, as is the EBU's shop.

Both stalls feature some great bargains. Far be it from me to point you to one stall rather than the other, but...