

Swiss Teams

Leading Positions After 3 Rounds

Position		Total
1	Victor Silverstone;Lynton Stock;Waseem Naqvi;Jerry Stamatov	60
2	Frances Hinden;Jeff Allerton;Graham Osborne;Peter Lee	56
3	Sally Brock;Jon Cooke;Cameron Small;Margaret James	55
4=	Padraig O'Briain;Michael O'Briain;Tom Hanlon;Hugh McGann	54
4=	John Williamson;Alan Powys;Bernard Themis;Angela McCready	54
4=	David Owen;Tony Togneri;John Dakin;Roy France	54
7	Jeremy Dhondy;Keith Bennett;Ian Pagan;Chris Jagger	53
8=	Kath Nelson;Alan Nelson;Andrew Petrie;Jeff Smith	52
8=	Vida Bingham;Nigel Osmer;Barry Wennell;Beth Wennell	52
10	Anthony Golding;Francis Morton;Alan Kay;Andrew Macnair	50
11	Rune Hauge;Per Austberg;Jan Svendsen;Tor Helness	49
12=	Cathy Walker;Gareth Evans;Sue O'Hara;Michael Davies	48
12=	Nevena Senior;Oya Konuralp;Ros Wolfarth;Howard Melbourne	48
12=	Liz McGowan;Mike Ash;Tony Wilkinson;Alexander Wilkinson	48
12=	Alan Wilson;Stuart McPhee;Jim Gobert;Chris Chambers	48
16	Heather Dhondy;Rob Cliffe;Filip Kurbalija;Tim Rees	47
17=	Cath Jagger;Sarah Teshome;Richard Winter;Ollie Burgess	46
17=	Simon Gillis;Erik Saelensminde;Boye Brogeland;Espen Lindqvist	46
19=	Paul Hackett;Tony Waterlow;Ian Panto;Peter Czerniewski	45
19=	Michelle Brunner;John Holland;Bill Hirst;John Hassett	45
19=	David Faria;Liam Jones;Shivam Shah;Tom Rainforth	45
19=	David Barnes;Nigel Guthrie;Martin Holcombe;Janet Barnes	45
23=	Alexander Allfrey;Andrew Robson;Tony Forrester;David Bakhshi	44
23=	Peter Bowles;Alison Pollok;Ruth Edmondson;Brigid McElroy	44
25=	Paul Gipson;Alex Gipson;Nick Boss;Richard Johnson	43
25=	Nick Irens Uif Tundal;Espen Erichsen;Norman Selway;Glenn Groetheim	43
25=	G Bartley A Alberti;B Engel M Schueller;M Pauly;N Bausback	43
25=	Catherine Curtis;Paul Fegarty;Brian Powell;Mike Scoltock	43
29=	Michael Paskins;Mary Briant;Jack Downes;Lionel Thacker	42
29=	Jason Hackett;Richard Probst;Ben Pritchard;Sandra Probst, Lara Ruso	42
29=	Dave Debbage;Ed Levy;Mike Goldsmith;Alex Morris	42
29=	Julian Wernick;Robin Cambery;Dodo Georgevic;Sue Goldman	42

29=	Richard Bowdery;Jerry Harouni;Gary Jones;Dafydd Jones	42
29=	Peter Jones;Tom Slater;David Kenward;Simon Creasey	42
35=	Mike Pownall;Patrick Jourdain;Peter Goodman;Terry Walsh	41
35=	Bob Loveridge;Helen Montgomery;Alan Cooke;Monica Lucy	41
35=	Neil Rosen;Anne Rosen;Catherine Draper;Andrew Woodcock	41
35=	Stephen Gore;Douglas Townsend;Phil Thornton;Kevin Elstow	41
39	Malcolm Pollack;Jon Williams;Simon Pollack;Bob Hargrave	40
40=	Barbara Biggin;Di Bishop;Anne Skinner;Anne McBride	39
40=	Colin Webb;Gayle Webb;Gloria Lankshear;John Lankshear	39
40=	Richard Currie;John Amor;Penny Macleod;Tim Green	39
40=	Tilly Hennings;Roger Pyart;Fran Thornton;Andrew Symons	39
40=	Phil Green;Roger Karn;Richard Samter;Norman Botton	39
40=	Roy Garthwaite;Heather Hobson;Ted Latham;Janet Latham	39
40=	Alan Gillespie;Nanette Gillespie;Amanda Bolton;Mike Dancy	39
47=	Manny Marks;Martin Hoffman;Mike Gold;Michael Ranis	38
47=	Wendy Miller;Marie Horlock;Jane Morton;Varda Derwig	38
47=	David Park;Mary Lawrenson;Sheila Barrett;Graham Barrett	38
47=	Nick Woodcock;Sue Woodcock;Bill Wattleworth;Liz Wattleworth	38
47=	Dennis Valtisiaris;Roger Bright;Ray Clarke;Simon Moorman	38
47=	Andy Fenn;Chris Cook;Bernard Eddleston;Margaret Eddleston	38
47=	Peter Hall;David Beever;Nigel Lancaster;Nigel Marlow	38
54=	Bill Taylor;Jim Deacon;Robert Miller;Daniel Baines	37
54=	Andrew Murphy;Alan Shillitoe;Chris Cooper;Nathan Piper	37
54=	Bob Drijver;Meryn Graenenboom;Tim Verbeek;Danny Molenaar	37
54=	Paul Huggins;Dominic Pinto;Michael Heaney;Martin Brady	37

Mixed Pairs Championship

1	Fiona Brown & Steve Raine	66.52%
2	Chris Mooney & Carole Mueller	63.87
3	Meike Wortel & Bob Drijver	62.48

Thursday Evening Open Pairs

1	Andrew Urbanski & Simon Richards	61.11%
2	Myles Ellison & Mike Huggins	59.03
3	Chris Chorley & Mike Wren	54.17

Friday Afternoon Open Pairs

1	Jon Cooke & Simon Richards	65.65%
2	Geraint Harker & Bryony Youngs	61.40
3	Stuart Davies & Laurence Gaunt	61.08

Midweek Knockout Teams Final

Michael Byrne (Michael Byrne, Simon Cope, Mike Bell, Ben Paske, Ed Jones, Tom Paske)
 Beat
Robert Miller (Robert Miller, Mark Hodgson, Bill Taylor, Jimmy Deacon)
 By 76-69 IMPs

Today's Schedule

11.00 am	Discuss it with an Expert – Michael Byrne
1.00 pm	Swiss Teams , Session 2 (4 matches)
8.00 pm	Swiss Teams , Session 3 (3 matches)
Midnight	Night Owls Speedball (Pairs)

Orange Book

Changes

August 1st 2008

I P.11 3E

Section 3E has been completely revised as follows:

3 E 1 A player has the right to ask questions at his turn, but should be aware that exercising this right has consequences. If a player shows unusual interest in one or more calls of the auction, then this is unauthorised information to partner. Partner must carefully avoid taking advantage, which may constrain the actions partner is permitted to take during the remainder of the auction or when on lead during the play. (Law 16C, 73C). Asking about a call of 3NT or below which has not been alerted may cause more problems than asking about an alerted call, as may asking repeated or leading questions. Asking about alerted calls in a (potentially) competitive auction is less likely to have adverse consequences, although it is not risk free.

If, therefore, at a player's turn to call, he does not need to have a call explained, it may be in his interests to defer all questions until either he is about to make the opening lead or his partner's lead is face down on the table.

3 E 2 Questions asked during the auction about the meaning of an opponent's double shall usually not be considered to pass Unauthorised Information, nor to have the potential to mislead declarer about the questioner's shape or values. However, the TD may still use his discretion to give an adjusted score if the nature of the questioning clearly provides partner with unauthorised information.

3 E 3 A player may use only information he has received from legitimate sources, such as calls, plays, opponents' convention cards, their answers to questions and their mannerisms. A player may not use information gained from his partner's explanation, uncertainty, tempo or mannerisms. (Law 73B1)

3 E 4 Perhaps an example would help. A player opens 1♣ which is not alerted, and the next player, before passing, asks the meaning of the 1♣, or even worse says "Is that natural?". If 3NT is reached, and the questioner's partner leads a club from two or three small cards the questioner must expect that the TD will not allow the result to stand, but will adjust it.

What reason has this player to ask? The questioner knows it is a natural bid because it was not alerted. Experience shows the questioner often happens to have several clubs.

Players sometimes say "I always ask whether I intend to bid or not". This is not recommended.

3 E 5 When a player does wish to ask a question, it is recommended to phrase this neutrally and ask simply for an explanation of the auction, or of a particular call. For example when asking about a 3♣ response to 2NT it is recommended to say "What does 3♣ mean?", rather than "Is that Stayman?" This helps to avoid confusion or misleading opponents. Only if further clarification is needed should specific questions be asked.

3 E 6 As well as giving unauthorised information to partner, questions about bidding may mislead opponents, in which case they may be entitled to redress. Similarly, declarer's questions about leads, signals and discards could illegally mislead the defenders. (Law 73F)

5 P.32 7D

Changes in the Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2007 mean that the existing section 7D is deleted completely and replaced with:

7 D 1 Certain Laws have Regulating Authority options. Those applicable to EBU events are:

- (a) Law 12C1 (c) applies, so a TD or Appeals Committee may weight an assigned adjusted score in order to do equity: this is the norm.
- (b) Law 18F authorises such methods as Bidding Boxes and Silent Bidders.
- (c) Law 40B1 refers to special partnership agreements. Any agreement that is subject to a regulation in this Orange book is deemed to be a special partnership agreement.
- (d) Under Law 40B2 (a) the EBU can regulate certain natural bids directly that were previously regulated indirectly – see 10 E.
- (e) Under Law 40B2 (c) (iii) a player may look at his opponents' system card at any time, though this may create unauthorised information.
- (f) Under 40B3 (a) a pair is NOT allowed to vary its understandings by prior agreement during the auction or play consequent on a question asked by either side.
- (g) Under Law 40B3 (b) a pair is allowed to vary its understandings by prior agreement during the auction or play consequent on a response by

the opponents to a question by this pair.

(h) Under Law 40B3 (c) a pair is NOT allowed to vary its understandings by prior agreement during the auction or play consequent on a response by this pair to a question by the opponents.

(j) Under Law 40B3 (d) a pair is allowed to vary, by prior agreement, its understandings during the auction and play consequent on an irregularity by either side, except that following its own insufficient bid a partnership may not change by prior agreement the meaning of a replacement call so that it is brought within the criteria of Law 27B1 (b).

(k) Under Law 40C3 (a) a player is not allowed aids to memory, calculation or technique: for example, looking at the scores on the back of bidding cards during the hand is considered an aide-memoire and therefore illegal.

(l) Under Law 61B3 defenders may ask each other whether they have any cards left of the suit led, though this may create unauthorised information.

(m) Law 78D allows 'other scoring methods', for example in the Hubert Phillips honours count.

(n) Law 93C allows the possibilities of differing methods of appeals and thus permits special methods to deal with special cases. EBU Appeals procedures are unchanged.

7 P.42 10 E Level 2,3,4

Changes in the Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2007 mean that the existing section 10E is deleted completely and replaced with

10 E Legal control of non-conventional bids

10 E 1 From 1st August 2008 all agreements may be regulated under Law 40 as 'special partnership understandings'. The EBU defines all agreements that it regulates as 'special partnership understandings'. The previous indirect method of regulating certain opening bids and overcalls no longer applies.

10 E 2 Levels 2, 3 and 4

- (a) A partnership may NOT agree to open 1♥ or 1♠ on 3 cards by agreement.
- (b) A partnership may NOT agree to overcall on three cards by agreement.
- (c) A partnership may NOT agree to overcall solely to show strength in the suit bid rather than length.
- (d) A partnership may NOT agree to open on

hands weaker than as allowed by 11 C 1, 11 C 9 and 11 C 10.

These rules do not necessarily apply to any artificial bids allowed by other sections.

10 P.46 11 C 13 Level 4

Options (a), (b) and (c) are replaced with new section (a). Part (d) is now (b), so it reads:

11 C 13 Either/or Two-way Club

A 1♣ opening may be played as both of:

(a) Any meaning as long as this does not include unbalanced hands with 5+ Hearts or 5+ Spades (unless there is a minor suit of equal length or longer) ...

together with:

(b) Strong: any combination of meanings which promises a minimum of 'Extended Rule of 25' (see 10 B 4).

11 P.46 11 C 15-18 Level 4

11C15 and 11C16 are renumbered 11C17 and 11C18. New sections 11C15 and 11C16 are added as follows:

11 C 15 Strong Major

A 1♥ or 1♠ opening may have any combination of meanings if it is forcing and promises a minimum of 'Extended Rule of 25' (see 10 B 4).

11 C 16 Balanced Major

A 1♥ or 1♠ opening may have a defined range, a minimum of 9 HCP and must not be forcing. The HCP range may be varied according to position and/or vulnerability. One of the following may be played:

- (a) a balanced hand
- (b) a balanced or semi-balanced hand.

Players are free to agree more restrictive distributional constraints (e.g. no four-card major).

17 P.52 11 G 10 Level 4

(a) Delete 'extended Rule of 25 (Rule of 25 or equivalent playing strength subject to an absolute minimum of 14 HCP);' and add "Extended Rule of 25 (see 10 B 4)'

(b) In part (b) add 'and does not include two-suiters where the bid suit is the longer suit.'

Section now reads:

11 G 10 General (a) Strong: any combination of meanings which promises a minimum of 'Extended Rule of 25' (see 10 B 4).

(b) Any combination of meanings which either:

(1) includes one specified suit of at least four cards; or (2) has a specification which does not include holding at least four cards in the suit bid, and does not include two-suiters where the bid suit is the longer suit.

21 P.54 11 H 8 (a) and (b) Level 4

2007: Delete 'extended Rule of 25' (Rule of 25 or equivalent playing strength subject to an absolute minimum of 14 HCP).' and add 'Extended Rule of 25 (see 10 B 4)'.

2008: In section (b)(2) add 'and does not include two-suiters where the same specified suit is the longer suit.'

Section now reads:

11 H 8 (a) General Two No Trump openings may be played as any one or two of the following:

(a) Strong: any combination of meanings which promises a minimum strength of 'Extended Rule of 25' (see 10 B 4).

(b) Any combination of meanings which either:

(1) includes one specified suit of at least four cards; or

(2) has a specification which does not include holding at least four cards in one specified suit and does not include two-suiters where the same specified suit is the longer suit.

Trivia Quiz 8

Classical Music

Who composed the following classical pieces?

1. The William Tell Overture
2. In The Hall Of The Mountain King
3. Also Sprach Zarathustra
4. Sabre Dance
5. Bolero
6. Clair De Lune
7. Peter And The Wolf
8. Pictures At An Exhibition
9. The Sorcerer's Apprentice
10. Pomp And Circumstance

One Day Seminars on the New Laws

The EBU is running a series of one day seminars round the country to cover the most important changes in the revised code of laws which took effect on August 1st. The days should be of interest to club TDs, county TDs and anyone just interested in the laws.

The main changes in the laws this time are to insufficient bids, revokes and weighted rulings, and these will be explained on the day, but there are other important changes that will be covered.

Each day costs £10, which includes course papers and tea/coffee, but you will need to bring your own law book and lunch.

Dates and venues are as follows:

Young Chelsea BC, London
October 4th 2008

West Midlands BC, Solihull
October 5th 2008

Bolton BC
October 11th 2008

Huddersfield BC
October 11th 2008

Leicester County BC
October 11th 2008

Darlington, St Georges BC
October 18th 2008

Cumbria
October 19th 2008

Bristol
November 1st 2008

Wantage
November 29th 2008

The new laws will have been in place for about two months and you are encouraged to bring your own 'real' situations which can be discussed with the tutor.

You can book your course with Peter or Dawn on the EBU Reception desk or phone the office 01296 317203/5 from next Tuesday.

If you can't wait until October there is a 'Discuss the new laws with an expert' session with David Stevenson this Sunday morning at 11am.

TD Questions & Answers

John Probst

(From Bulletin 5)

TDs, when with other TDs, enjoy posing each other 'hard' Law questions. The situations are unlikely to come up in real life, but it's a good game.

For several years, I've set some 'TD questions' at Brighton to be answered by the players, not the other TDs. As usual, I'll stand a drink to the player who does best in the quiz. (Answers to me please.)

1a) During the play of the hand the TD is asked, 'May I inspect the IMP scale on my scorecard?' Yes/No?

Yes. 78B – The Laws are Authorised Information

1b) During the play of the hand the TD is asked, 'May I inspect the VP scale on my assignment card?' Yes/No?

Yes. 78D – 'available to contestants'.

2) During the auction, a player bids hearts (let's say 4♥) for the first time, LHO passes and partner doubles. (My partner bids so badly that I sometimes have to double to express my contempt.) Next player now bids 4♠. When the TD arrives he cancels the inadmissible double and the subsequent 4♠ bid (Law 36). The double is substituted with a pass and 4♥ is passed out. Can declarer forbid a spade lead?

No. 36A – Lead Restrictions, Law 26, do not apply.

3) A defender, thinking he is dummy (it happens), starts to spread his hand on the table and has got as far as the four deuces. He gets stopped at this point and his partner is on lead. If declarer forbids the lead, or insists on the lead, of any suit, then the card(s) in that suit may be picked up (Law 51). So declarer, showing a sense of humour, bans the lead of all four suits and all the penalty cards are picked up. What happens now?

Law 59 gets us out of this situation. If you have no legal card available you may play any card. Declarer shot himself in the foot.

How did you get on? I'll see what I can come up with to test you again next Brighton. Look forward to it!

Forcing Pass

There was a curious lack of bidding on this deal from Thursday afternoon's Open Pairs, as reported by Peter Jones.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Stout</i>	<i>Slater</i>	<i>Godfrey</i>	<i>Jones</i>
–	–	–	1♠
2♠	Dble	3♣	Pass
3♦	Dble	3♥	All Pass

As Peter said, he thought that he had that rare beast, a hand suitable to pass then pull the double to show a hand too good to bid immediately. However, while he got the pass OK, he is still awaiting his opportunity to pull the non-existent double. North, a junior international, decided that Peter must have a weak no trump type so passed out 3♥.

Phil Godfrey, East, had been going slowly in an attempt to conceal his huge heart fit and to buy the contract when his opponents should have been saving. Though East/West have 12 tricks in a heart contract, –230 did not prove to be a good score for North/South.

Trivia Quiz 8 Solutions

1. Rossini
2. Grieg
3. Richard Strauss
4. Khachaturian
5. Ravel
6. Debussy
7. Prokofiev
8. Mussorgsky
9. Dukas
10. Elgar

Open Trials

We left TOWNSEND trailing SANDQVIST by 50-92 IMPs after 40 of the scheduled 100 boards of the final of the English Open Trials for Beijing.

Set three was a wild set which was to effectively decide the result of the match.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ 7 5 ♥ — ♦ A Q 10 6 5 4 ♣ K J 9 7 6	<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		♠ 9 3 ♥ A J 9 8 7 6 5 4 ♦ 7 ♣ Q 5	♠ A Q 4 2 ♥ 3 ♦ K J 8 3 2 ♣ 10 8 4
	N											
W		E										
	S											

West	North	East	South
<i>Jason</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>	<i>Justin</i>	<i>McIntosh</i>
—	—	—	1♠
2NT	4♥	5♦	5♥
Pass	6♥	Dble	All Pass
West	North	East	South
<i>Townsend</i>	<i>Sandqvist</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Malinowski</i>
—	—	—	1♠
2NT	3♥	3♠	4♣
4♦	4♥	5♦	Pass
Pass	5♥	Pass	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

Where Sandqvist contented himself with a non-forcing 3♥ bid over West's Unusual 2NT overcall, Hallberg jumped to the heart game. This put extra momentum into the auction and, on finding his partner with heart support, Hallberg went on to 6♥ over 6♦.

Justin led a low club, run to the king, and Jason cashed the ace of diamonds then led a spade to his partner's ace for down two; -300.

The quieter 3♥ bid left room for Malinowski to show not only his heart support but also a high-card feature in clubs. Sandqvist was happy to go on to the five level because of his extra heart length, but knowledge of some defensive values in partner's hand encouraged him to defend 6♦.

Sandqvist led a spade. Townsend rose with dummy's ace, ruffed the heart and drew trumps before taking a club finesse. He lost two clubs and a spade for down two, and that was -200 and 11 IMPs to SANDQVIST.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ J 10 7 ♥ K J 6 3 ♦ J 4 ♣ K J 10 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		♠ A K Q 4 2 ♥ — ♦ A 9 6 5 ♣ A 7 6 5	♠ 8 6 ♥ 8 7 5 4 ♦ K 7 ♣ Q 9 8 3 2
	N											
W		E										
	S											

West	North	East	South
<i>Jason</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>	<i>Justin</i>	<i>McIntosh</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♣	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
<i>Townsend</i>	<i>Sandqvist</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Malinowski</i>
—	—	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

McIntosh's Drury sequence didn't get the job done here as the best trump suit for slam was never even mentioned. Justin made the aggressive lead of the king of diamonds, giving the thirteenth trick; +710. Malinowski could open 2♥ to show a weak five-five with hearts and a minor. Sandqvist asked about the minor then blasted 5NT, trying for seven.

With weak diamonds, Malinowski was happy to settle for the small slam and the even trump break meant that he had no problems in making that contract; +1370 and 12 IMPs to SANDQVIST.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ K J 3 ♥ A 6 5 2 ♦ A 9 8 ♣ A 9 5	<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		♠ Q 10 9 5 4 ♥ Q 10 9 4 ♦ 6 5 4 ♣ J	♠ A 8 7 ♥ 7 3 ♦ Q 10 7 2 ♣ K 10 7 6
	N											
W		E										
	S											

Both Wests opened 1NT and played the no trump game.

Sandqvist led the ten of spades round to declarer's jack. Townsend ran the eight of diamonds to Malinowski's jack and back came the ♥J, ducked, the

♥K, also ducked, and a third heart to the ace. Townsend crossed to the ace of spades and ran the queen of diamonds. Not wanting to rely on an even diamond break, he now led a low club to his nine and North's bare jack, and Sandqvist wasted no time in cashing the ♥9 for one off; -50.

Hallberg also led the ♠10 to declarer's jack. Jason ran the ♦8 to South's jack and McIntosh returned a spade to dummy's ace, so Jason was under less pressure than at the other table. He ran the ♦Q then tried a club to the nine and jack. Though nothing good had happened in clubs, there were nine tricks now for +400 and 10 IMPs to SANDQVIST.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ A K 9 7 4 ♥ Q 10 ♦ 7 6 2 ♣ 8 6 5	<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		♠ Q 10 8 3 ♥ 9 8 7 6 ♦ A Q 10 4 ♣ Q	♠ — ♥ A K 5 3 ♦ K 9 8 3 ♣ A 7 4 3 2 ♠ J 6 5 2 ♥ J 4 2 ♦ J 5 ♣ K J 10 9
	N											
W		E										
	S											

West	North	East	South
<i>Jason</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>	<i>Justin</i>	<i>McIntosh</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
<i>Townsend</i>	<i>Sandqvist</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Malinowski</i>
2♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	4NT	Dble	5♣
Dble	All Pass		

Jason passed the West hand and saw his opponents have a peaceful auction to 2♣, where Hallberg made 11 tricks for +150.

Townsend, looking for some action in a set which seemed to be going badly for his side, decided to open with a multi 2♦. Sandqvist passed, waiting for his opponents to unwind, and heard Gold bid a pass or correct 4♥. When Townsend duly corrected to 4♠, Sandqvist did not double for take-out, but made the more committal call of 4NT for the minors, and Malinowski bid the obvious 5♣, doubled by Townsend.

Townsend led a top spade. Malinowski ruffed and led a low diamond towards his jack. When Gold had to go in with the queen declarer was well placed. Gold switched to a heart to the jack, queen and ace and Malinowski played another low diamond, Gold winning the ace to lead a second heart to the ten and king. Malinowski led a club to hand, ruffed a

spade and cashed the king of diamonds to get rid of his heart loser, then cross-ruffed the rest; 11 tricks for +550 and another 9 IMPs to SANDQVIST.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Jason</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>	<i>Justin</i>	<i>McIntosh</i>
—	—	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♦	1♥	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♣
Pass	7♠	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
<i>Townsend</i>	<i>Sandqvist</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Malinowski</i>
—	—	2♦	Pass
2♠	Dble	3♥	5♣
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

While you can make 13 tricks in either clubs or no trump, you would be happy to play this one in the secure 6♣ and Sandqvist/Malinowski did well to brush aside Gold's multi to get there. Malinowski did not come in over 2♦. Townsend showed heart support but no enthusiasm for spades and Sandqvist doubled for take-out then trusted his partner to have a big club suit for his jump to game. So he raised to 6♣ on the strength of his outside controls – a brave bid. Malinowski gave up a spade trick so had 12 winners for +920.

Hallberg/McIntosh had a bidding misunderstanding – well, I think Hallberg had a misunderstanding with himself. Spades were surely set as the trump suit at the point where Hallberg used RKC and heard that his partner had one key card. Though diamonds had been bid naturally, it was a long time ago, and clearly 5♦ should have been the way to check for the queen of trumps. Instead, Hallberg bid 5♥ and, systemically, that asked for second-round heart control. McIntosh didn't have the heart control, of course, but he did have a solid suit to supply a source of tricks so bid 6♣ to stress the suit. And Hallberg took this to show the ♠Q plus the king of clubs, and jumped to 7♠. There was an unavoidable trump loser and that was -50 and 14 IMPs to SANDQVIST.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Jason	Hallberg	Justin	McIntosh
—	—	1NT	2♠
2NT	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			
West	North	East	South
Townsend	Sandqvist	Gold	Malinowski
—	—	1NT	2♠
3NT	4♠	4NT	All Pass

Facing a 14-16 no trump, Jason used Lebensohl and, when Hallberg raised to 3♠, McIntosh went on to game. A diamond lead would have put 4♠ under considerable pressure – declarer would need to pick the heart position to get home – Jason's actual choice of ace and another heart did not, as they say, exactly paralyse declarer, who quickly wrapped up 11 tricks and +650.

Facing a 15-17 no trump (both Easts saw a potential rebid problem if they opened 1♣), Townsend just blasted 3NT. When Sandqvist competed with 4♠, Gold in turn took the push to 4NT, where he played. Malinowski led a low spade and had to find a lot of discards as Gold cashed the clubs. By the time the clubs had finished, he had bared the king of diamonds. Gold played a diamond off the table and Sandqvist went in with the ace, crashing his partner's king. That meant only one off – Malinowski had been forced to keep king-jack of hearts so had only three spade winners to cash – for -50 and, at last, some relief for TOWNSEND, in the shape of an 11-IMP swing.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ 7 5 4 ♥ K 8 6 5 ♦ Q J ♣ K J 6 5	<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	♠ A K Q 9 8 3 2 ♥ 7 ♦ K 6 3 2 ♣ 7	♠ J 10 6 ♥ J 3 ♦ 8 7 ♣ A Q 10 9 8 4
N						
W E						
S						

West	North	East	South
Jason	Hallberg	Justin	McIntosh
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	3♥	4♠	5♦
5♠	Pass	Pass	6♥
All Pass			
West	North	East	South
Townsend	Sandqvist	Gold	Malinowski
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	2♥	4♠	5♦
5♠	6♥	All Pass	

This one was all about the opening lead. Jason led the ace of clubs and continued the suit, trusting that there would be no spade trick on this auction; one down for -50. Townsend led a spade and Malinowski could ruff, draw trumps and, with the club honours both onside, along with the ♦K, could not go wrong; +980 and 14 IMPs to SANDQVIST.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ J 7 4 ♥ A Q 7 2 ♦ 10 3 ♣ A J 10 6	<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 10 9 5 3 ♥ 3 ♦ J 6 4 2 ♣ 8 7 4	♠ A Q 8 6 2 ♥ 4 ♦ A K Q 9 7 ♣ K 3
N						
W E						
S						

West	North	East	South
Jason	Hallberg	Justin	McIntosh
Townsend	Sandqvist	Gold	Malinowski
1♥	2♥	All Pass	

The set ended with an amusing auction, duplicated at both tables. When North made a Michaels Cuebid, it was clear to South that he would hold spades and diamonds. With such good hearts, neither South wanted to play anywhere other than in that suit, and both duly passed. Game is excellent, of course, but it isn't realistic to explore such possibilities as you risk getting too high when partner does not have his actual huge hand. Malinowski was allowed to make 11 tricks against McIntosh's ten, so that was one more IMP to SANDQVIST.

The set had gone to SANDQVIST by 86-21 IMPs and they now led by an imposing 178-71 with two sets to play. TOWNSEND played on for one more set but then conceded. The final score was SANDQVIST 232 TOWNSEND 100. Nick Sandqvist, Artur Malinowski, Jason and Justin Hackett will represent England in the Open Teams at the World Championships in Beijing in October. A third pair will be added by the selection committee in consultation with the winning team.

The Buffett Cup

Two years ago, a team of twelve top European bridge players faced twelve top Americans in the inaugural Buffett Cup in Dublin.

The competition, brainchild of Paul Hackett, was to be the bridge equivalent of golf's Ryder Cup, with a unique scoring system based, as in the golf, on head-to-head matches between individuals, pairs and teams. Dublin was the venue because that was where the Ryder Cup was held a few days later.

The event was a great success, with the Americans just coming out on top. In a few weeks' time the Ryder Cup is again being held, this time in Louisville, Kentucky, and so the second running of the Buffett Cup is also to be held in Louisville.

The bridge will be held over four days, September 15-18, and will be shown on BBO, so should attract a large audience from all around the world, as it did two years ago.

If you are not already a BBO regular, you can join for free and download the necessary software. Just go to:

www.bridgebaseonline.com

Scoring is by point-a-board, or board-a-match as the Americans call it. Rather than using IMPs or matchpoints, it is actually rather simple. It doesn't matter what the difference between your score and that at the other table with which you are comparing may be; you get two for a win, one for a draw, and zero for a loss.

So, if your teammates score -100, it doesn't matter whether you score +110 or +1100. Either is the same two points.

Europe will be represented by:

Sabine Auken (Germany) & Marion Michielsen (Netherlands)
Michel & Thomas Bessis (France)
Boye Brogeland & Espen Lindqvist (Norway)
Tom Hanlon & Hugh McGann (Ireland)
Tor Helness & Jan Peter Svendsen (Norway)
Michael Kwiecien & Jacek Pszczola (Poland)

The Americans will be:

Bob Hamman & Zia Mahmood
Geoff Hampson & Dick Freeman
Alan Sontag & Roger Bates
Tobi Sokolow & Janice Seamon-Molson
Howard Weinstein & Steve Garner
Roy Welland & Bjorn Fallenius

Marion Michielsen



One of the European team, Marion Michielsen of the Netherlands, has been here in Brighton for the last few days with her regular partner, Meike Wortel, and a group of other young Dutch players.

Marion was taught bridge by her father when she was 13. Now 23, she has represented the Netherlands internationally in the Girls (Under 26) team, the Schools (Under 21) team, the Juniors (Under 26) team, and the Ladies team. As a regular member of both the Ladies and Junior international teams, Marion travels a lot for bridge. Not only are there the major international tournaments themselves, but also both teams play practice matches against other countries, and she goes to some of the American Nationals.

For the forthcoming World Championships in Beijing, Marion and Meike had a tough decision whether to play for the Ladies or the Juniors, eventually settling on the Juniors as the team are European champions and wanted to play the same line-up at the World event.

When she is not playing bridge, Marion studies Law.

In the 2005 European Students Championships, Marion was the top female competitor and her prize was to play an event with the world's number one lady player, Germany's Sabine Auken. As they come from different countries and both have busy schedules, this has never actually happened yet, and the Buffett Cup was an ideal opportunity to put together two of Europe's top players.

Systemically, Marion loves the mini no trump (10-12) non-vulnerable, which she says brings in a lot of points. Also five-card majors and transfer responses to their naturalish 1♣ opening.