

BULLETIN

FRIDAY



EGMO | 2012



Happy Birthday Elise Delhez

Cupcakes for the birthday girls

Two contestants celebrated their birthdays yesterday. Elise Delhez (from Belgium) and Natalie Behague (from the United Kingdom) both celebrated in style after the exam. They and their team mates were presented with special cupcakes in the Dome after lunch, and were able to relax with their friends, old and new, in the afternoon. We wish them many happy returns of the day.



Three of the UK team

Competition Day One

After an overcast morning walk to the exam room, the sun shone through before the end of the paper. There was a surprising number of queries, with a clarification being asked for by more than one third of the contestants. Problem 2 was favoured by most of the contestants, while problem 4 was considered to be the most fiendish. We are all very much looking forward to the second paper.

Cambridge Maths Tour

On Saturday afternoon, the Guides will take the contestants on a tour of Cambridge. This will start at the Isaac Newton Institute, which the contestants have walked past on their way to and from the exams but which they might not

have had time to notice. The tour will then move on to other significant mathematical locations in Cambridge, including sights in the city centre and some of the older colleges. This will be a great opportunity to take lots of photos, so bring your cameras and wear comfortable shoes!



Cards in the Walkway

Did you know...

...that April showers are a typical feature of the British weather at this time of year? There is an old saying that "April showers bring May flowers", so hopefully the gardens will be just as full of flowers next month!

Peaceful Pairing Puzzle

There are n red points and n blue points in the plane, such that no three points are collinear. Is it always possible to divide them into n red-blue pairs so that the line segments from each red point to its corresponding blue point do not cross?

Saturday Morning -

have a lie in!

Contestants will be provided with Brunch (instead of breakfast) which means they need not get out of bed much before 11:30, at which time a fantastic late morning meal will be served in the Dome.



Combinatorics Talk, Dan Schwarz

19:30, Long Room

The talk will cover two combinatorial topics (combinatorics being the speaker's preferred field of mathematical interest). The first one deals with the famous *windmill problem*, which at the 2011 IMO in the Netherlands brought to its knees the fine flower of the international mathematical high school community, and whose author is none other than the UK's own Geoff Smith. The second one is a personal creation of mine, which similarly in a way remained almost unsolved at the Romanian National Olympiad of 2004. It deals with the *combinatorics of sets*, and it brings forward a delightful algorithmic-like approach. Both will be proved during the talk to be perfectly within the reach of almost anybody with just rudiments of mathematical knowledge, but with an open mind for analytical approach.

Final Marks Online

Watch your results as they arrive live on Saturday in the Long Room and at

egmo2012.org.uk



Ceilidh, 20:00, the Dome

The word 'ceilidh' originally meant just a gathering of people, but it has come to mean an evening of traditional music and dancing. The music is played by a group of musicians called the ceilidh band and consists of traditional British tunes. Much of this originates in Scotland and Ireland, but regions of England also have their own traditional music and dances and they also display influences from other countries, for example, Hungary. A ceilidh, also known as a barn dance in England, is a fairly common occurrence in villages throughout the United Kingdom. In England it is traditional to have a caller as part of the band, and in this way everyone can take part even if they have never seen the dance before. The caller will teach the dance before it starts and also call out instructions whilst the music is playing. The dances are often danced in pairs or a set (four dancers arranged in a square) and many involve swapping partners as part of the dance. We'll have a caller and a live band for our ceilidh. Please come along to the Dome this evening and experience this for yourselves – no prior knowledge is needed at all, just comfortable shoes and lots of enthusiasm.

The week ahead:

Friday

7:30 Breakfast for Contestants and Leaders
8:00 Breakfast for Deputies and Observers
8:30 – 13:00 Paper 2
PM Punting & Tourist Activities
17:30 Maths Talk—see poster
20:00 Ceilidh (traditional music and dancing), Dome

Saturday

8:00 Breakfast for Leaders, Coordinators and Deputies
11:30 Brunch for Contestants and Guides
12:00 Lunch for Leaders, Coordinators and Deputies
PM Cambridge Maths Tour
18:15 Dinner
19:30 Maths Talk—see poster
Craft Evening, Dome

Sunday

8:00 Breakfast
9:15 Get on coaches
Excursion to Bletchley Park
18:00 Return to MEC
19:00 Gala Dinner (dress code: lounge suits), Dome

Monday

8:00 Breakfast
Departure

