



FRANCE WINS WORLD OLYMPIAD

- FOURTH OPEN SERIES GOLD MEDAL FOR FRANCE!
- FOURTH USA VICTORY OF WOMEN'S SERIES OLYMPIAD

After a fine performance, **FRANCE** won the gold medal in the open series of the *10th World Team Olympiad*. This is the fourth time France has taken the gold medal in this event, thus breaking Italy's record of three gold medals. The only other countries who have won the open Olympic title are Brazil, Poland and the USA.

The **UNITED STATES** took the gold medal in the women's series thus recapturing it for the first time since 1984. With four gold medals in this series, the USA has just as spectacular a record, as France.

The **10th World Bridge Team Olympiad**, held in Rhodes, Greece, October 19-November 2, 1996, was an unprecedented success, as 72 countries took part - 14 more than the previous record which has stood since *Valkenbourg '80*.

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43rd GENERALI EUROPEAN TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

Open - Ladies - Seniors

15-29 June 1997

6th GENERALI EUROPEAN LADIES PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP

15-17 June 1997

*Centro Congressi
Montecatini Terme, Italy*

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While 1995 was a year of great changes in EBL administration, 1996 was differently marked.

After two decades of continuous support, *PHILIP MORRIS* decided not to renew their sponsorship contract with the EBL, and thus our cooperation was terminated.

European bridge benefited greatly from *PHILIP MORRIS* sponsorship, and we regret this development although it is well known that a sponsorship agreement does not last for ever.

It is now up to us to show that our foundation is strong enough to withstand any loss, and the EBL has taken steps in this direction. One such step is this issue of *EBL Review*; another, the 1997 edition of the *EBL Competition Calendar*. Both publications came into existence with the support of *PHILIP MORRIS*; without it, both publications not only continue to exist but now appear in full colour.

The situation is similar with the *European Pairs Championships* which will be held in March in The Hague. *PHILIP MORRIS* was behind the large cash prizes which made these Championships attractive to hundreds of players. Such prizes are not only to be retained, but they will be even larger this year.

We still enjoy the support of *GENERALI* and look forward to other partnerships; however, it is positive to test our self-reliance when necessary.

Pauw Gerrootpauw

TOURNAMENT ROUND-UP

The Carpathian Mountains Regional

The **1st Carpathian Mountains Regional Championship** was organized by the *Polish Bridge Union* (PBU), under the auspices of the *European Bridge League* and the Polish Foreign Ministry. The event took place in *Nowy Sacz*, Poland, 19-21 April 1996. The largest Polish computer company *OPTIMUS S.A.* was the main sponsor.

Six teams took part in the tournament: *Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Ukraine, Poland* and the team representing the *Nowy Sacz* prefecture. Each team played a 20-board match against the rest. After two days of play, the final results were:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----|
| 1. Poland | 111 |
| 2. Czech Republic | 80 |
| 3. Romania | 68 |
| 4. Nowy Sacz | 62 |

- | | |
|------------|----|
| 5. Hungary | 62 |
| 6. Ukraine | 61 |

The winning Polish team consisted of the two top pairs: Balicki - Zmudzinski and Martens - Szymanowski.

The local MP and the Hungarian Consul were among many VIPs who attended the Closing Ceremony. In his speech, the *Mayor* of Nowy Sacz City stressed the necessity of organizing such events in order to increase the cooperation and friendship between neighboring countries. He promised his continuing support for the Championship in the future. PBU Chairman *Andrzej Orlow* thanked the Nowy Sacz City Council and the *OPTIMUS S.A.* company for their hospitality and financial support.

Radoslaw Kielbasinski

The Israel International Festival

The annual Israel Festival was held in Tel Aviv, 15-24 February 1996 with enormous success. Players from more than 20 countries took part, and the total attendance reached a record of some 2,750 tables!

Over 10 national teams participated in the Festival, together with 10 world champions. However, the highlight was the

attendance of more than 100 children, aged 7-12, who played in a special event.

Among the foreign visitors were *Geir Helgemo* and *Geir-Olav Tislevoll* of Norway who won the Open Pairs and the Swiss Teams. The overall winner was *David Birman* of Israel, who also received high credit as Chairman of the Organizing Committee.

The Forbo International

The **4th Forbo-Krommenie International Bridge Tournament** took place in Scheveningen, The Netherlands, 9-11 February 1996. There were three events.

The *Friendship Cup* was a pairs tournament for businessmen, politicians and the parliamentary press.

In the *Teams*, the squad of *Steve Haas* (Germany) finished ahead of *Modalfa* (Netherlands) and *Lavazza* (Italy) in the 64-team field.



WBF President José Damiani glorifies Haas, the team winners

The *Nations Cup* was won in spectacular fashion by *Italy* who did not lose any match! They were followed by an *'Intercontinental'* combination, *The Netherlands* and *France*.

The Hague

The venue of the Championships is a green and leafy city by the sea - a sparkling government seat where culture, spectacle and events are all fighting for the visitor's attention!



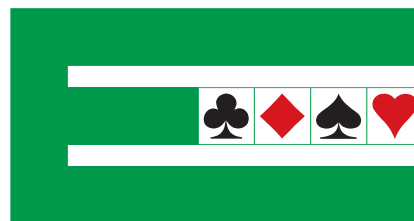
The city boasts a variety of attractions, exciting places to visit, museums and an abundance of palaces and museums.

The Hague is a great place for shopping, and has many good restaurants.

Nearby is the resort of *Scheveningen* with many hotels, a casino and other seaside attractions.

The Hague The Netherlands

EUROPEAN PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIPS



17-22 March 1997



- 9 sessions
- 1st prize: SFr 10,000
- Entry Fee: SFr 400
(per pair)

OPEN PAIRS

SENIOR PAIRS

- 6 sessions (one a day)
- 1st prize: SFr 2,500
- Entry Fee: SFr 300
(per pair)

The Netherlands Congress Centre

An international Congress and Convention Centre with style. There are catering facilities on site where meals will be available between playing sessions; each evening the buffet will be of a different European cuisine.

The Netherlands Congress Centre is an easy 15-minute journey on public transport from both the city centre and the seaside resort of Scheveningen.

Entries to the EBL
(through the Federations only)
close on
16 February 1997



The structure of duplicate bridge is like a huge pyramid. At the bottom, and by far the most numerous, are the *bridge clubs* providing regular duplicate games for their members. The next step in the pyramid are the *local* and *regional organization*. Above them the *National Federation* and then finally the International organizations, which here in

The *Norwegian Team* who won the Junior Event in the *European Bridge League Youth Championships*, held in Cardiff in August (with *Russia* second and *Denmark* third) and *Germany* who won the *Schools Event* (with *Israel* second and *Great Britain* third).

And with pride of place going to the *French Open Team* of *Christian Mari, Marc Bompis,*

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Europe means the *European Bridge League*.

There is no doubt that the International Bridge Championships add lustre to the game. They are the beacons shining from the top of the pyramid. We can all aspire to becoming top International bridge players. We can all admire the top players. But in reality it is only a few who make it to the very top.

It gives me great pleasure to be able to add my congratulations to the European bridge players who achieved greatness in 1996. These include:

Veronique and *Michel Bessis*, *Catherine Saul* and *Paul Chemla* of France who won the *European Mixed Teams* held in Monaco in March and *Maria Erhart* and *Fritz Kubak* of Austria who won the *European Mixed Pairs*.

Henri Szwarz, *Frank Multon*, *Alain Levy* and *Hervé Mouiel*, non playing captain *Jean-Louis Stoppa* who won the Gold Medal in the *10th World Bridge Team Olympiad* that was held in Rhodes in October/ November. (And we must not overlook the *Danish Open Team* who secured the Bronze Medal.)

France were of course the holders of the World Bridge Team Olympiad and it is a truly remarkable performance to have won again. If they win for a third time in the year 2000, I wonder if they will be allowed to keep the trophy!

The French Open Team reflects great credit on the *Federation Française de Bridge* which is one of the largest and most successful NCBOs in Europe. It is an excellent example of the 'huge pyramid'



I mentioned at the beginning of this letter. It is the solid, reliable base of the pyramid, comprising hundreds and thousands of bridge players, which enables Federations to promote and finance their International players.

In January the EBL held its third Bridge **Promotion Week** in conjunction with the *Federazione Italiana Gioco Bridge*. 24 NCBOs were represented in a week of hard work for presenters and delegates alike. I know that the exchange of ideas has benefitted all who attended and has positively inspired some NCBOs who have already started to implement improvements learnt in Milan. Two clear messages came out of Milan. These are, first, that **a Bridge Federation is built from the bottom up** and second that **bigger is better**. What do these two things mean?

A Federation grows by teaching, recruiting and keeping

members. That provides the solid base of the 'huge pyramid' from which to launch international success of the few at the top. And, second, the bigger a Federation becomes the more it commands attention from both Governments and commercial sponsors.

At the beginning of 1996 there were 385,000 registered bridge players in Europe. By the time you read this letter the number will have exceeded 400,000. It is the aim of the EBL to have over 500,000 registered bridge players by the end of 1999. For everyone in Europe – but in particular for the clubs, teachers and administrators – our clarion call must be, **'half a million by the millennium!'**

Bill Pencharz

EBL Congress elects new President and Treasurer

A special meeting of the EBL Congress, held last March in Monte Carlo, elected **Bill Pencharz** of Great Britain the new President of the European Bridge League. At the same meeting, **Feijo Durksz** of the Netherlands was voted the League's new Treasurer.

The elections became necessary following the death of **André Boekhorst** who had been elected EBL President in June 1995. Standing to be elected as the League's 10th President, Mr Pencharz resigned from the post of Treasurer which thus became vacant.

- 1970: Born 14 February in Trondheim, Norway
- 1988: 3rd European Junior Teams, Plovdiv
- 1990: 1st European Junior Teams, Neumünster
- 1991: Norwegian Open team at Killarney Europeans & World Juniors, USA

GEIR HELGEMO

- 1992: 3rd European Junior Teams, Palaiseau
- 1993: 3rd Menton Europeans;
2nd World Junior Teams;
2nd Bermuda Bowl, Santiago
- 1994: 1st *Cap Volmac* with Tor Helness;
4th European Juniors, Arnhem
- 1995: 1st World Junior Pairs, Ghent, with Boye Brogeland
- 1996: 1st *Cap Volmac* Pairs with Tor Helness;
Winner *Generali Masters Individual*, Paris;
IBPA Personality of the Year



The IBPA Personality of 1996 interviewed by Patrick Jourdain

Congratulations on becoming World Individual Champion at the tender age of 26. It was only last year people were calling you the world's best Junior player; they will have to upgrade that accolade now. Tell us something first about your family.

I have lived all my life in Trondheim, a coastal town in Norway. My father is an electrician, and my mother works in the office of his business. I have two sisters, one older and one younger than me.

When did you start bridge?

Both my parents played bridge, and I learned at the age of 12, playing at the nearby bridge club. I read books by Charles Goren, then Reese and Kelsey.

Which was your first serious event?

I played in the 1987 Nordic Championships in the under 20s team, but the first real test was the following year at the European Junior Teams in Plovdiv when we won the bronze medal.

What were the highlights of your Junior career?

In 1990 Norway won the Junior Europeans in Neumünster. We went to the USA for the World Juniors the following year, but didn't reach the semifinals. We were only third at the 1992 Junior Europeans but did better at the World Juniors in Denmark, losing to Germany in the final. In Arnhem, at the 1994 Junior Europeans, Norway just missed a medal. As Poland, third, could not go to Bali, Norway were invited, but our Federation did not take up the invitation. In 1995 **Boye Brogeland** and I won the first World Junior Pairs held at Ghent University.

Did you go to University, and what about jobs?

I read computer science at the University of Trondheim. Half-way through my last year I was offered the job of writing a daily bridge column in Norway's leading Daily, *VG*, which has a circulation of 400,000, a job I still have. I decided to make bridge my fulltime career, so left University early. As a player, my first professional engagement in the USA, which allows one to earn a proper wage, came last year in New Orleans. This year I was in *Rita Shugart's* team, partnering **Tony Forrester**.

What about your partnerships in Norway?

In the Norwegian Open team I partnered Glen Grotheim until Tor Helness and I formed a partnership in 1993. Tor and I won the *Cap Volmac* Invitational, the major Dutch event, in 1994 and this year, and were in the Norwegian team which took silver the 1993 Bermuda Bowl in Santiago, losing narrowly to the Netherlands in the final.

As a Junior I remember you were overweight, but you have become slimmer in the last year. Do you have sporting interests?

My exercise is playing squash. My other main hobby is less energetic: I am a keen football supporter, following Liverpool. Yes, I enjoy my food, but I don't smoke.

If you had a magic wand to change something about bridge, what would it be?

I would like bridge to be popular on television, because more TV coverage would solve other problems too.

Have you any advice you would like to give the readers of *EBL Review*, for their bridge?

Read more.

We have known you since 1988 in Plovdiv. It is rare for a successful bridge player to be so modest. Good luck with your future career, and thank you for your time.



Bompis Levy Mari Mouiel Multon Szwarc



OPEN SERIES FRANCE GETS THE GOLD!

The fourth French victory in ten Olympiads sets a new record - as does the unprecedented attendance in Rhodes of 72 countries!

10th WORLD TEAM OLYMPIAD

FINAL	FRANCE	358
	INDONESIA	269
PLAYOFF	DENMARK	84
	CHINESE TAIPEI	71

SEMIFINALS	INDONESIA	230
	DENMARK	226
	CHINESE TAIPEI	190
	FRANCE	209

QUARTERFINALS	FRANCE - RUSSIA	203 - 128
	DENMARK - ITALY	161 - 134
	ICELAND - INDONESIA	115 - 180
	POLAND - CHINESE TAIPEI	122 - 132

It was the Roman writer Virgil who penned the phrase *'timeo Danaos et dona ferentes'* - 'I fear the Greeks, even when bearing gifts.'

What a pity he could not be transported to the present to realise his error by witnessing the outstanding efforts of the *Hellenic Bridge Federation*, the hosts of the greatest ever gathering of national bridge teams.

For two weeks, the eyes of bridge players across the globe were focused on the island of Rhodes, the venue for the **10th World Team Olympiad**. It would be difficult to imagine a more appropriate choice of venue, on the 100th anniversary of the revival of the Olympic games, which were born in Greece.

The world's finest players and administrators travelled from every corner of the globe, from countries great and small, to participate in the Olympiad.

With **71** teams contesting the Open event and **43** the Women's, the tournament set a new record for the number of competing countries, confirmation that the popularity of bridge worldwide is being increasingly recognised.

After being divided into four groups, two in each event, these countries had to compete for nine successive days in a gruelling round-robin, playing every other team in its group. The aim: to finish in the top

four and thereby advance to the knockout rounds.

In the Open series, **France** would be trying to retain the title it had captured in 1992 in Salsomaggiore, and **Austria** be trying to retain their hold on the women's trophy and so make it a double European repeat.

The competitors would all be playing the same hands. The spectators could listen to expert and often humorous commentary and follow the play on *Bridge Vision*. Those who wanted to play as well as watch could participate in the Olympic Festival.

The Championships had its own newspaper, the *Daily News*, and this was available via the Internet.

The spirit of Olympic competition was never more aptly illustrated when Italy's **Andrea Buratti**, saw his Bulgarian opponent inadvertently pass his partner's forcing opening bid of 1♣. He turned to his opponent and said: *'Feel free to change your call if you wish.'* The Bulgarian pair promptly bid to a slam (!) but when declarer mistimed the play, Buratti was rewarded for his gallantry.

As the round-robins drew to a close, **Marc Hodler**, the vice president of the *International Olympic Committee* visited the Olympiad, meeting with members of the WBF Executive.

Sixteen teams had fought their way into the quarterfinals, but no country was represented in both the Open and

QUALIFIER	1 FRANCE	691	1 ITALY	692
	2 INDONESIA	676	2 CHINESE TAIPEI	659
	3 POLAND	642	3 ICELAND	652
	4 DENMARK	633	4 RUSSIA	645
	5 NEW ZEALAND	632	5 ISRAEL	643
	6 SWEDEN	615	6 GREAT BRITAIN	636
	7 SPAIN	607	7 NETHERLANDS	633
	8 JAPAN	602	8 NORWAY	629
	9 AUSTRIA	593	9 USA	620
	10 SOUTH AFRICA	586	10 BRAZIL	608
	11 CHINA	580	11 INDIA	601
	12 CANADA	577	12 AUSTRALIA	572
	13 BELGIUM	574	13 FINLAND	559
	14 ARGENTINA	569	14 HUNGARY	544
	15 PAKISTAN	552	15 TURKEY	539
	16 IRELAND	539	16 GREECE	536
	17 CHILE	532	17 YUGOSLAVIA	533
	18 CZECH REP.	531	18 SLOVENIA	530
	19 MOROCCO	526	19 VENEZUELA	518
	20 ROMANIA	525	20 EGYPT	512
	21 GERMANY	513	21 ESTONIA	512
	22 UKRAINE	508	22 SWITZERLAND	512
	23 CROATIA	492	23 GUADELOUPE	508
	24 LUXEMBOURG	485	24 HONG KONG	503
	25 PHILIPPINES	485	25 PORTUGAL	501
	26 LEBANON	476	26 MONACO	486
	27 SAN MARINO	474	27 LATVIA	440
	28 LITHUANIA	466	28 BULGARIA	434
	29 BANGLADESH	457	29 MAURITIUS	411
	30 COLOMBIA	414	30 TUNISIA	406
	31 SINGAPORE	399	31 FR. POLYNESIA	400
	32 LIECHTENSTEIN	394	32 THAILAND	385
	33 MALAYSIA	359	33 MEXICO	376
	34 BERMUDA	352	34 JORDAN	366
	35 PALESTINE	171	35 KENYA	296
			36 CYPRUS	278



WOMEN'S SERIES

USA WINS



**19 OCTOBER - 2 NOVEMBER 1996
RHODES - GREECE**

WOMEN'S OLYMPIAD

FINAL

CHINA - USA 198 - 268

3rd PLACE PLAYOFF

CANADA - AUSTRIA 133 - 67

SEMI FINALS

AUSTRIA - USA 223 - 264

CHINA - CANADA 306 - 106

QUARTER FINALS

ISRAEL - CHINA 86 - 151

NETHERLANDS - USA 107 - 151

CANADA - GERMANY 140 - 112½

GREAT BRITAIN - AUSTRIA 108 - 134

QUALIFIER

1 CHINA	414	1 USA	407
2 GERMANY	406	2 AUSTRIA	407
3 NETHERLANDS	379	3 CANADA	399
4 GREAT BRITAIN	374	4 ISRAEL	384
5 SWEDEN	360	5 POLAND	365
6 SOUTH AFRICA	357	6 FRANCE	353
7 DENMARK	353	7 ITALY	349
8 NEW ZEALAND	346	8 INDIA	322
9 SPAIN	340	9 FINLAND	315
10 MEXICO	332	10 AUSTRALIA	314
11 BRAZIL	323	11 BELGIUM	311
12 HUNGARY	309	12 CHINESE TAIPEI	297
13 GREECE	295	13 ARGENTINA	289
14 RUSSIA	294	14 CROATIA	289
15 INDONESIA	290	15 THAILAND	287
16 MONACO	277	16 JAPAN	280
17 SAN MARINO	273	17 TURKEY	275
18 MOROCCO	269	18 JORDAN	264
19 VENEZUELA	253	19 COLOMBIA	258
20 HONG KONG	242	20 MALAYSIA	230
21 PHILIPPINES	201	21 JAMAICA	208
22 PAKISTAN	187		

the Women's event, the first time this has happened in Olympiad history.

Every Olympiad has had its dramatic moments, but perhaps none have equalled the excitement of the Open semifinal between **Indonesia** and **Denmark**. With just three hands left to play, *Indonesia* enjoyed a substantial lead. Then along came a deal which will take its place in the history books. *Denmark* bid and made 7♠. This was a giant 16-IMP gain because *Indonesia* didn't even smell the slam – they stopped in 3NT, making seven.

When *Denmark* picked up another 11 IMPs, it appeared to the hundreds of spectators that *Denmark* had reached the final. They and the huge number of Danish supporters who greeted their heroes at the conclusion of the match were not aware that the scores being transmitted to the audience included an error – a swing to *Denmark* that hadn't really happened!

Danish elation turned to frustration as they discovered that the scores were exactly level. Extra time would be required in the shape of eight extra boards – at least they would not have to endure a penalty shoot-out!

It was standing room only in the theatre and many could hardly dare to watch. When the last board settled on the table, *Denmark* led 9-1. The Danish pair bid a slam, the Indonesians stopped in game. The slam failed and the scenes of joy made the eruption of Krakatoa appear insignificant!

The behaviour of the gallant Danes, who were the first to congratulate their opponents, epitomised the words of Rudyard Kipling, *'If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster, and treat those two impostors just the same.'*

The advance made by countries from the far eastern zone in recent years was further demonstrated by the respective appearances of *Indonesia* and *China* in the Open and Women's finals.

In the latter competition, the experience of the USA team proved to be a significant factor, but it is surely only a matter of time before some gold medals find their way to the Peoples Republic.

The victorious **American** team included a mother and daughter combination in **Gail Greenberg**, winning her third Olympiad title, and **Jill Blanchard**. Jill partnered **Irina Levitina**, a Russian now resident in New York. She becomes the first person in history to win gold medals in a world championship for both chess and bridge, having been on the winning Russian Women's team in 3 Chess Olympiads.

It was also a first Olympiad victory for **Lynn Deas**, **Juanita Chambers** and **Shawn Quinn**.

The **French** Open team, whom many experienced commentators had not even expected to survive to the knockout stages, had retained their title, the first country to do so since the fabled Italian **Blue Team** had completed a hat trick of victories in Miami in 1972.

Christian Mari, **Henri Szwarc**, **Alain Levy** and **Hervé Mouiel** were all capturing the title for the second time, whilst it was a first success for **Frank Multon** and **Marc Bompis**.

It was France's *fourth* Open Olympiad title, and who will dare to bet against them winning again in 2000, when the championships will be hosted in the picturesque Dutch town of Maastricht.

Mark Horton

Our reporter, Patrick Jourdain, interviews the President of the British Bridge League (BBL), Patrick Jourdain!

Can you tell us something about the structure of the British Bridge League?

The United Kingdom consists of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Great Britain consists of England, Scotland and Wales. The BBL has the four 'Home Unions' of the United Kingdom as its main members, but in international events, Northern Ireland joins with the Republic of Ireland to field an all-Ireland team. The other three Home Unions are the source of the international teams correctly called Great Britain.

The BBL has a Council, with delegates from each of the four Home Unions, which meets three times a year. It has an Executive of four people, a Laws Commission and sub-committees to run its tournaments, and select British teams.

What events does the BBL run?

There are home internationals for Open, Women, Juniors and Under 20s. The Open series, for the *Camrose Trophy*, was launched in 1937, and has completed 52 seasons. Wales and Northern Ireland have never won the *Camrose*, but have come very close on a few occasions

The main British championship is the knockout teams for the *Gold Cup*, the most sought after trophy in Britain. It was launched in 1931 and, in 1996, is in its 59th season. I have competed in just over half these, but won it only once. The BBL also runs a *Mixed Pairs* and a *British Schools Cup*. We have many other events whose main purpose is to raise money to fund British teams.

What is the staff of the British Bridge League?

Anna Gudge! The bulk of bridge administration within Britain rests with the Home Unions. The *English Bridge Union*, for example, has a headquarters with a dozen fulltime staff. The BBL has its office in a former railway station in Sudbury where Anna Gudge and her assistant work.

The Home Unions have over a thousand affiliated clubs, with a combined membership of some 60,000 people, of which 30,000 are registered as individual members of the Home Unions.

The BBL hosted the 1996 European Youth Bridge Championships in Cardiff, in July. Tell us about it.

INTERVIEW

WITH & BY



PATRICK JOURDAIN

This was the most important bridge championship ever held in Wales, and it is described in *EBL Junior Review*. The British Junior team went to the event as reigning European and World champions, but, with only two members of the previous team still young enough to play, they failed to qualify for next year's *World Junior Team Championship*. That is the way of Junior bridge.

Tell us something about yourself. What is your job?

From Cambridge University I joined the steel industry in Cardiff. I had four years in Glasgow when I was in the Scottish team which won the *Gold Cup*, and the *Camrose*. The next season I gave up my career in steel to return to Cardiff to go into bridge full-time.

I am Editor of the Monthly Bulletin of the *International Bridge Press Association*

which is a club of 500 of the world's bridge journalists. I am bridge correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*, which sells a million copies, where I handle the bridge news, and my colleague Tony Forrester supplies bridge hands. I am also Principal of the *Cardiff School of Bridge*, a one-man business which has a hundred students learning bridge. I am Wales's most capped player, with 59 *Camrose* appearances for Wales in addition to the two for Scotland.

My pastimes are golf, at which I am a keen incompetent, and tennis. I travel the world for bridge, but believe there is no more pleasant place to be than on the golf course or tennis court of my two Cardiff clubs.

Thank you for your time.

Thank you. You were much less awkward than I was expecting!

MIXED PAIRS

1	Erhart - Kubak	AUT
2	Tomaszewska - Puczynski	POL
3	Willard - Mouiell	FRA
4	Scaufelberger - Nahmias	FRA
5	Kitabgi - Maurin	FRA
6	Tockan - Assael	TUR
7	Chauvire - Jeanneteau	FRA
8	Mouttet - Mouttet	FRA
9	Kowalska - Stepinski	POL
10	Auken - Nippgen	GER
11	Yanir - Katz	ISR
12	Guillaumin - Vives	FRA



AUSTRIA WINS PAIRS

The 4th **PHILIP MORRIS European Mixed Championships**, held in Monte Carlo, Monaco, 18-23 March 1996, was a very successful tournament. As usual, there were two main events: the **Mixed Teams** and the **Mixed Pairs**.

84 teams from 19 countries lined up for the first event which started as a *swiss* tournament. After 12 rounds, four very strong combinations qualified for the semifinals: *Bessis* (France), *Nippgen* (Germany), *Kowalski* (Poland) and *Blakset* (Denmark). The rest continued for three more rounds, to determine the rankings from fifth place downwards.

The semifinals were short but tough matches. *Bessis* did well to beat *Blakset*, 37-23,

while *Nippgen* had the better run against *Kowalski*, 45-35.

This led to an exciting final between a strong **French** team (*Bessis*, *Bessis*, *Chemla*, *Saul*) and a **German** combination of World and European champions (*Auken*, *Nippgen*, *Reps*, *von Arnim*). The match



lived up to expectation, as there was plenty of action. The Germans were leading at half time, but at the end the French prevailed and won the title, 73-55. This was the third victory for **France** in four competitions! At the same time, **Denmark** took the

bronze medal, as the Poles succumbed, 5-71.

The **Mixed Pairs** attracted 320 combinations from 22 countries. They played two qualifying sessions, after which the top 120 pairs advanced to the final while the rest could play in a consola-

tioned by *Auken-Nippgen*, the title holders, and *Chemla-Saul*, winners of the first event in 1990.

Nothing was determined until the very end when *Erhart-Kubak* managed to retain their lead and win the gold medal. The Polish pair *Mariusz Puczynski-Wieslawa Tomaszewska* finished in second place while the French champions *Hervé Mouiel-Sylvie Willard* placed third.

In the **consolation** tournament the winners were *Carmignani-Monari* of Italy who finished just ahead of *Kowalska-Starkowski* of Poland and the *Polet* couple of Belgium.

The Championships ended with a wonderful prize-giving dinner which reflected accurately the high quality of the organization.

TEAMS GO TO FRANCE



1	Bessis	FRA
2	Nippgen	GER
3	Blakset	DEN
4	Kowalski	POL
5	Vives	FRA
6	Quantin	FRA
7	Kremer	FRA
8	Rey	FRA
9	Maurin	FRA
10	Bernes	DEN
11	Fucik	AUT
12	Levit	ISR

MIXED TEAMS

BRIDGE ON THE INTERNET

OFFICIAL WBF SERVER LAUNCHED IN THE INFORMATION 'SUPER HIGHWAY'



The *Internet*, the world-wide computer network which has opened new horizons in communication, could not leave bridge indifferent.

Bridge players who were also computer enthusiasts introduced the game in the network and provided information on bridge activities.

The *World Bridge Federation* quickly followed suit. The **WBF Internet Server** came into life with the posting of the Daily Bulletins from the European Mixed Championships last March, and continued covering the Youth Europeans from Cardiff and the World Team Olympiad from Rhodes.

As from the beginning of 1997, the WBF electronic services are expanded to include many areas of interest, as information on bridge administration, the WBF zones and their structure, departments, competitions, a special area for Juniors, etc. Naturally, this is only the beginning, as new services will be introduced with time, as required.

The electronic address of the WBF Internet Server is:

www.bridge.gr

HOW TO ACCESS THE INTERNET

Communication through the computer has been recently simplified so much that everybody is now able to benefit from the *Information Super Highway* without any special knowledge or sophisticated equipment.

To connect, one needs a *personal computer* (PC) with *modem*, an ordinary *telephone line*, an *account* with an Internet provider and a computer *programme* for browsing the network.

Today, almost everybody has access to a PC, either at home or in the office. The *modem* is a cheap device which allows computers to communicate through the telephone. The computer *programme* for browsing the network (*browser*) is available, usually free of charge, from competing software companies.

To open an Internet *account*, you need to contact a local *provider*. These are companies which give access to the



net for a small fee, either according to connection time or at a flat monthly rate.

Once you subscribe to such a provider, an account is established in your name and you are given a local telephone number. Calling this number with your PC, you connect to the Internet through the modem.

The total cost of the Internet connection varies from place to place; however, in most cases, it is from very little to negligible.



G. Rona



J. Damiani



P. Gerontopoulos



E. Cagner



R. Beurtey



U. Saibante



R. Grazioli



For one week, last January, Milan became the centre of the European bridge development effort when experts in all fields gathered to present methods and discuss plans leading to the expansion of the game.

After *Amsterdam '89* and '93, this was the third *Promotion Week* organized by the League. The original idea was the brainchild of the late **André Boekhorst**, the former EBL President who had noticed that although bridge in Europe is expanding continuously, much of the progress is achieved in the bridge-devel-



Pupils who attend bridge classes in their high school explain what the game means to them after a demonstration lecture

Although there are certain differences in the various approaches, the basic principles remain the same. To develop the game, a NCBO needs one single bridge teaching method which will be followed by all teachers. Play should taught

the development of bridge among school children. This was not easy as ordinary school teachers had to become bridge teachers too. With much effort, success came along, and some 500

PURSUING THE CAUSE OF BRIDGE



Highly successful bridge promotion methods presented in week-long seminar

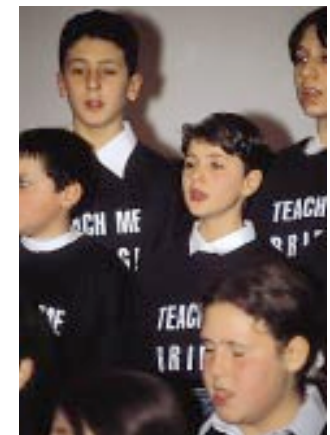
oped countries, instead of where it is mostly needed. Indeed, about half of the European NCBOs have less than 1,000 members, while **The Netherlands** and **France** account for 50% of the EBL's registered players!

In the first *EBL Promotion Week*, the emphasis was on the **Dutch** programme; the second focused on the **French** methods. This year, most of the seminar was devoted to the exposition of the **Italian** system, which is responsible for doubling FIGB membership in five years!

before the bidding and students should play a lot from the very beginning. Novices should only face hands which they are able to handle. While the educational process is lasting, students should not mix with established players.

To develop bridge, it is necessary to teach people how to play the game - and to do that, teachers are needed. It is very important to teach teachers how to teach, and all systems pay special attention to this department.

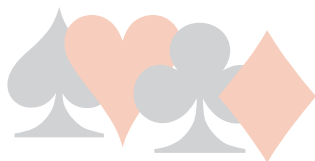
Like France, Italy has developed a particular programme for



A children's choir performs 'Teach me Bridge' - a promotion song developed by FIGB for Italy's School programme.

pupils, together with their teachers, represented 96 schools from all over Italy in the annual School Camp and Championship held last June.

The Promotion Week was attended by many officials and NCBO representatives. Unfortunately, some of the smaller Federations did not send any delegates, but it is hoped that the seminar *Proceedings* which are about to appear in a handy volume, will provide valuable tools for the development of the game across Europe.



• This is an abridged list of the tournaments scheduled to take place in Europe in the first half of 1997. More information is contained in the comprehensive publication *1997 EBL Competition Calendar*.

JANUARY

13-24 International Winter Bridge Tournament / St. Moritz, **Switzerland**

17-19 EBU Swiss Teams Congress / Leeds, **Great Britain**

19-25 20th Budapest International Bridge Festival / Budapest, **Hungary**

MAY

1-4 30th Tallinn International Bridge Festival / Tallinn, **Estonia**

2-6 EBU Spring Foursomes / Stratford-upon-Avon, **Great Britain**

2-11 *Ceahlau Trophy* / Piatra Neamt, **Romania**

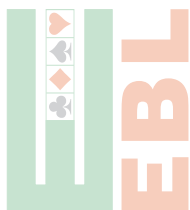
16 *Bonn Cup* / Bonn, **Germany**

23-25 10th International Bridge Tournament 'Costa Calida' / Murcia, **Spain**

26-June 1 12th International Bridge Festival 'Locomotiva' / Bucharest, Romania

31-June 1 11th International Amsterdam Airport *Schiphol* Bridge Tournament / Amsterdam Airport, **The Netherlands**

COMPETITION CALENDAR



24-25 25th Carnival International Tournament / Forte dei Marmi, Italy

JUNE

FEBRUARY

13-22 31st Israel International Bridge Festival / Tel Aviv, **Israel**

15-21 3rd Malta International Bridge Festival / **Malta**

21-23 13th International Tournament 'Copa Giralda' / Sevilla, **Spain**

28-March 2 *Città di Abano* International Tournament / Abano Terme, **Italy**



MARCH

7-9 Sopron Pairs Tournament / Sopron, **Hungary**

8-15 St. Petersburg International Bridge Tournament / St. Petersburg, **Russia**

9-15 10th Island of Tenerife Festival / Canary Islands, Spain

17-22 **9th European Pairs Championships** / The Hague, **The Netherlands**

28-31 Easter Festival of Bridge / London, **Great Britain**

15-18 **6th GENERALI European Ladies Pairs Championship** / Montecatini, **Italy**

15-29 **43rd GENERALI European Teams Championships** / Montecatini, **Italy**



Publicizing your events

The European Bridge League provides the best media for advertising your tournaments.

The *EBL Competition Calendar*, published annually, contains concise information for some 100 tournaments organized across Europe. 4,000 copies are distributed, free of charge, to all NCBOs and the Press, reaching hundreds of bridge clubs and thousands of individuals interested in international events.

EBL Review, is published twice a year and provides global information about what is happening in the world of bridge. It has a circulation of 10,000 and is also distributed free of charge to all NCBOs, administrators, teachers and the Press.

EBL Review

EBL Review, published biannually, is the official medium of the European Bridge League.

It is distributed free of charge to all National Contract Bridge Organizations, Bridge Clubs, Tournament Directors, Journalists, Bridge Teachers and Officials of the 43 EBL member countries.

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