



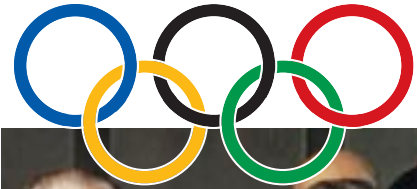
RECORD SUCCESS IN LILLE WORLD BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 1998 World Championships, held in Lille, France, August 21-September 4, was a record success in many fields.

Never before had there been so many entries in a world event. Publicity for bridge was unprecedented both through the media and in the city of Lille which, spear-headed by Mayor **Pierre Mauroy**, a

former Prime Minister of France, offered excellent support. And there were countless big and small sponsors associated with the various tournament events.

Although the **UNITED STATES** were once again the multi-winner, **ITALY** captured the prestigious *Rosenblum Trophy*, while **AUSTRIA** took the *McConnell Cup*.



BRIDGE HOSTED IN OLYMPIC HEADQUARTERS

'Bridge is a sport, and as such your place is here like all other sports' said **Juan Antonio Samaranch**, President of the *International Olympic Committee* (IOC), welcoming top bridge players from all over the world to the Olympic Museum in Lausanne.

The **IOC BRIDGE GRAND PRIX**, was highly successful and ended in an exact tie between **BRAZIL** and **CHINA**.



ITALY SCORES DOUBLE VICTORY IN EUROPEAN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS



ITALY won both gold medals by finishing ahead of the field in each of the two series of the 1998 European Youth Championships.

Held in Vienna's historic *Rathaus*, the tournament attracted 22 countries in the **Junior** series and 14 in the **Schools**.

IN THIS ISSUE

- Editorial **2**
- 1999 *GENERALI* European Teams & Ladies Pairs Championships to be held in Malta, June 12-27 **2**
- **Warsaw** to host 1999 European Pairs Championships, March 15-20 **3**
- Letter from the President . **4**
- Interview with **Alfredo Versace**, Italy's rapidly rising young star **5**
- 1998 World Championships: a highly successful kaleidoscopic tournament with many national winners - and, above all, **bridge** itself! . . . **6-7**
- *IOC Bridge Grand Prix*: the Olympic movement welcomes bridge **8-9**
- Senior bridge advancing fast **10**
- **European Ladies Pairs** coming up **11**
- Competition Calendar . **12**

BRIDGE

The past six months saw some very positive developments which, if pursued, may well make a difference to tomorrow's bridge.

In July, Vienna hosted the European Youth Championships in what was - and probably will be for a long time - the most magnificent venue ever used for a bridge tournament. The Vienna Town Hall (*Wiener Rathaus*), a historic building in the centre of the Austrian capital, provided a fitting environment for the European youth. The tournament generated great interest and was attended very well - both locally and from a distance, via Internet.

The World Bridge Championships held in Lille at the end of August were also highly successful. The entry was huge, and so was the publicity and support it received. Bridge is not a spectator's sport - but Lille provided the kind of event which can push the game forward.

A few days later, the Olympic movement finally opened its doors to bridge. And it did so in the best way - by staging a top level bridge tournament right at its heartbeat: the Olympic Museum in Lausanne. IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch left no doubt about its intentions: *'Bridge is a sport'*, he said, *'and as such, your place is here together with all other sports'*.

Three points, seemingly unrelated - but aiming at the same direction. They *must* be pursued. They *can* make a difference.

Pau *Gerontopoulos*



44th GENERALI
EUROPEAN TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS
OPEN - LADIES - SENIORS

7th GENERALI
EUROPEAN LADIES PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP

MALTA
12-26 JUNE 1999

PROKOM SOFTWARE

10th OPEN & 5th SENIORS EUROPEAN PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Palace of Culture & Science
Warsaw, Poland
15-20 March 1999

PRIZE MONEY
SF 120,000

GIORGIO BELLADONNA TROPHY

ENTRIES

through National Federations by **15 February 1999**

INFORMATION

- **Bill Pencharz** EBL President / 8 Bell Yard, London WC2A 2JU, UK / Tel.: 44-171-242 3001 / Fax: 44-171-242 3002
- **Polish Bridge Union** / Tel.: 48-22-827 2429 / Fax: 48-22-827 3488

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

- **Irena Sokolowska 'Orbis'** / 142 Marszałkowska, PL-00 061 Warsaw, Poland
Tel.: 48-22-827 6208 / Fax: 48-22-827 1123 / Email: congress@pbp.com.pl



As this is my last *Letter From the President* I would like to take the opportunity to identify what are the challenges and opportunities for the European Bridge League. There are three principal ones, I believe.

First, we need to maintain and, indeed, advance the **status of our European Championships**. Every European Cham-



ships must not be damaged as a result of professionalism.

The solution of this problem is a challenge to both the Federations and the European Bridge League. The Federations need to make every effort to select and send their strongest Pairs and Teams to European Championships. And the EBL must ensure that every European Championship is of the highest status and of the highest (and ever-increasing) technical standards. The EBL also needs to recognize (as, indeed, it already does in the European Pairs and Mixed Championships) that there must be financial rewards for success as well as medals.

Organizing European Championships of the highest standard, and with large money prizes, calls for huge human and financial resources. Finding and organizing those resources is the first of the three challenges which the EBL has to meet.

The *second* challenge is to achieve, right across Europe, the **recognition of bridge as a sport**. This recognition needs to be at all levels, but in particular at the levels of national governments and national Olympic Committees.

In many parts of Europe governments still regard bridge as something which does not deserve patronage or financial support. This false

is like a pyramid. At the top of the pyramid are the experts; the internationals who play and win in European Championships. But those few are supported by layer upon layer of lesser players, clubs and administrators. Without a solid, wide and deep base international bridge cannot survive.

There are, of course, several successful Federations across Europe that are already perfect pyramids – with large membership, many clubs, an infrastructure of teaching and promotion, an efficient bureau and successful international Pairs and Teams.

However, for most European Federations the ‘perfect pyramid’ is some way off. The third challenge which faces the EBL – and possibly the greatest – is to assist European Federations to promote the game and to develop the membership, infrastructure and organization to form a perfect pyramid.

I said at the beginning of this letter that it would be my last. My term as President expires at the end of the 44th *GENERALI* European Championships which take place in Malta next June. I decided not to stand for re-election as President as long ago as Easter this year. I believe this is the right moment to make my decision public so as to give proper time for the democratic process of selecting my successor. The choice of my successor is a matter for the 42 Federations who are members of the European Bridge League.

Having had nearly four years in the job I know what the presidency entails in terms of time, commitment, experience and leadership. There are strong candidates amongst my senior colleagues and I am confident that the right person will be elected as President to lead the League into the millennium.

For myself, I wish to continue to be involved in the affairs of the European Bridge League. But to what extent will depend upon how matters develop over the next six months.

I wish you all a happy Christmas and a peaceful, prosperous and happy New Year.

Have a good game!

Bill Pencharz
Bill Pencharz

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

– be it Teams, Pairs, Mixed or Youth – needs to be the *benchmark* by which all other tournaments are judged. This can only happen if European Championships attract the strongest international players playing in their strongest partnerships and strongest teams.

Recently there have been some disturbing signs of great players wishing to participate in European (and World) Championships with a weaker, ‘sponsor’ partner. This is a trend that is growing and because it threatens to reduce the standard of European Championships it threatens the status of the Championships.

I am 100% in favour of professionalism. A great bridge player is entitled to financial rewards for his skill. But the status and prestige of European Champion-

ship perception by government needs to be changed, and we need to work together to effect it. Similarly, in nearly all NCBOs bridge is not recognized as a sport by national Olympic Committees. Again, perceptions need to be changed.

Happily we have a great ally in the *International Olympic Committee* and its President **Juan Antonio Samaranch**. At world level bridge is now accepted as a sport and within a few years bridge will be played in the Winter Olympics.

There are huge promotional and financial advantages in bridge being fully accepted as a sport. For bridge to be accepted as a sport is the second challenge before the European Bridge League.

The *third* challenge goes with the second. It is the European-wide **promotion of the game of bridge**. Duplicate bridge

Alfredo, congratulations on winning the *Rosenblum* in Lille, giving Italy their first world title since 1975. Please tell us something about your family life.

I was born in Turin on 4th June 1969. My father was an actor on the stage, radio and TV. I have no brothers or sisters.

asked 'Who is this little boy who plays like an angel?' and did not play again until I was 13. Then I started playing regularly. My father was a friend of Mrs Lavazza who sponsors bridge teams, and, when I was 15, I was invited to partner **Italo Santia** in her team. We won the Italian Open, but as our

What did you do when you left school?

I was a bridge pro straight away. I also teach bridge privately. My first time for the Italian Open team was 1991 in Killarney partnering Santia but we just missed qualifying for the *Bermuda Bowl*. The following year, partnering **Claudio Nunes** in the Junior Europeans at Palaiseau we won the title.

When did you start your partnership with Lorenzo Lauria?

It was at the European Teams in Menton in 1993. I was still a junior, but Arnhem the next year was my last appear-

knockouts. Early in '96 we came second in the *Macallan Invitational* in London, and we won it the following year. Then Italy retained the European title in Montecatini and we went to Hammamet for the *Bermuda Bowl*, where we lost to Norway in a very close quarterfinal.

How did your team created by Francesco Angelini begin?

The team first played together three years ago and we have won two Italian Championships. Francesco is the owner of a private pharmaceuticals company. He was going to play in Lille but has not been feeling very well so we played there as a five man team. I partnered Lauria and sometimes **Antonio Sementa**.

You missed the World Individual in Corsica this year. Why was that?

My driving test was arranged for the same time and in Italy it is very difficult to change the date. The good news is that I passed!

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

I am very tolerant of little misdemeanours by the opponents so I don't like the very legalistic players who try to use any tiny infraction to obtain an advantage.

What are your interests outside bridge?

I follow horse-racing and like betting. And I play football in Team Angelini.

Have you any special tip for the readers of *EBL Review* to improve their game?

They should watch the top players in action more!

Alfredo, we are very grateful for your time.

Patrick Jourdain

INTERVIEW WITH



ALFREDO VERSACE

At school were you good at sport?

No, though I played a little tennis, and was interested in football. My subject at school was maths.

When did you start bridge?

I was 11 years old when I played in my first bridge tournament partnering my mother and we won it, but I was annoyed by an opponent who

teammates were **Benito Garozzo** and **Giorgio Belladonna** people were not so surprised!

When did you first represent Italy?

The next year, 1986, when I was 17, I partnered **Norberto Bocchi** in the European Junior Teams in Budapest. Italy was not in the medals. Two years later, in Plovdiv, when I was partnering **Giovanni Delfino**, we came second to France.

ance as a junior. I married Juliana that year and we now live in Rome where Lauria also lives.

1995 was the year you became European champion?

Yes, in Vilamoura. Lauria and I also won the Butler scoring where each pair was assessed separately. We went on to Beijing for the *Bermuda Bowl* but did not qualify for the

| TEAMS | | |
|-------|-----------|-----|
| 1 | ANGELINI | ITA |
| 2 | CHAGAS | BRA |
| 3 | BRAMLEY | USA |
| | LINDKVIST | SWE |
| 5 | HACKETT | GBR |
| | SUNDELIN | SWE |
| | MAAS | NLD |
| | MUNSGAARD | DEN |

OPEN



Every four years the World Bridge Federation stages the most kaleidoscopic of its events. The participation of players from all five continents and more than eighty countries ensured that for two weeks, August 21 - September 4, Lille, France, was the focus of attention for the world's bridge playing community.

An outstanding Internet service ensured that the Championships could be followed from all around the globe. Every computer being used at the Championships was connected to the WBF's server. A massive amount of information was available, including material that was not always included in the Daily News. Panos Gerontopoulos masterminded this complex operation and must have been delighted at the huge number of visits that were recorded. The WBF site is located at www.bridge.gr and contains all the statistics of the tournament.

During the Championships the WBF celebrated its 40th anniversary with a banquet at Lille's City Hall. Those attending included not only a host of world champions both past and present, but also many of the people who do so much from behind the scenes.

Many of the players took advantage of Lille's excellent rail links to visit Paris and London, either for sightsee-

| PAIRS | | |
|-------|---------------------|-----|
| 1 | Kwiecien-Pszczola | POL |
| 2 | Berkowitz-Cohen | USA |
| 3 | Fredin-Lindquist | SWE |
| 4 | Katz-Compton | USA |
| 5 | Ramer-Paulissen | NLD |
| 6 | Martens-Szymanowski | POL |
| 7 | Mittelman-Graves | USA |
| 8 | Meckstroth-Johnson | USA |
| 9 | Ozdil-Zaremba | POL |
| 10 | Weichsel-Sontag | USA |
| 11 | Chagas-Branco | BRA |
| 12 | Bocchi-Duboin | ITA |

ing or in some cases, 'serious shopping'!

José Damiani the President of the World Bridge Federation attracted a huge number of sponsors to the Championships. Many of them linked their names to the various events.

Following an impressive opening ceremony the Championships started with an event that for two days captured the imagination of everyone. The Compaq Par Contest involved 34 of the world's finest players who played 12 deals composed by the maestro from Switzerland, Pietro Bernasconi. Sensationally, at the end of the first day the lead was held by Matt Ginsberg's computer programme GIB. It captured headlines all over the world. It was something of a relief when Michael Rosenberg, representing the United States came through on the second day to capture the Jean Besse Trophy.

Amongst the highlights was the news that King Juan

| TEAMS | | |
|-------|----------|-----|
| 1 | ERHART | AUT |
| 2 | AUKEN | GER |
| 3 | TRUSCOTT | USA |
| | WOOD | USA |
| 5 | BESSIS | FRA |
| | LIU | CHN |
| | ALLISON | USA |
| | SOLODAR | USA |

WOMEN



| PAIRS | | |
|-------|----------------------|-----|
| 1 | Quinn-Meyers | USA |
| 2 | Auken-von Arnim | GER |
| 3 | Bessis-d' Ovidio | FRA |
| 4 | Moss-Greenberg | USA |
| 5 | Arnolds-Vriend | NLD |
| 6 | Menil-Pigeaud | FRA |
| 7 | Wei Sender-Chambers | USA |
| 8 | Wen Fei-Yu | CHN |
| 9 | Ling-Yalan | CHN |
| 10 | Zur-Albu-Levit-Porat | ISR |
| 11 | Sutherland-Hamman | USA |
| 12 | Cronier-Willard | FRA |

Carlos of Spain had bestowed on the President Emeritus of the WBF, Jaime Ortiz Patiño, the Civil Order of Merit, the highest honour Spain can award a foreigner.

The J.M.Weston Mixed Pairs was the first Championship to be decided. The gold medals went to the Italians, Enza Rossano and Antonio Vivaldi. Claude Bloquit and Marc Bompis of France took silver and the bronze went to Jens and Sabine Auken representing Denmark and Germany. European partnerships occupied ten of the first eleven places.

The Vivendi Rosenblum Teams Championship was fiercely contested and that too went to Italy. The champions were Francesco Angelini, Andrea Buratti, Massimo Lanzarotti, Lorenzo Lauria, Antonio Sementa and Alfredo Versace. It was the first time Italy had captured the Rosenblum.

MIXED



| PAIRS | | |
|-------|-------------------|---------|
| 1 | Rossano-Vivaldi | ITA |
| 2 | Blouquit-Bompis | FRA |
| 3 | Auken-Auken | DEN/GER |
| 4 | d'Ovidio-Chemla | FRA |
| 5 | Rauscheid-Buchlev | GER |
| 6 | Katz-Katz | USA |
| | Waksman-de Monval | FRA |
| 8 | Vriend-Maas | NLD |

The Louis Vuitton Mc Connell Teams Championship saw an all-European final between perennial rivals Germany and Austria. It was Maria Erhart, Doris Fischer Sylvia Terraneo and Terri Weigkricht who ensured that the Austrian flag would fly the highest.

The Société Générale World Open Pairs Championship produced a fantastic finish with a whole host of pairs chasing the gold medals. In the end it was Michal Kwiecien and Jacek Pszczola of Poland who emerged on top. Second were the United State's David Berkowitz and Larry Cohen whilst third place went to Sweden's Magnus Lindkvist and Peter Fredin.

Jill Meyers and **Shawn Quinn** of the *United States of America* captured the *Louis Vuitton Women's Pairs*. The runners up were *Germany's Daniella von Arnim* and *Sabine Auken*, the latter thus capturing her third medal of the Championships. The bronze medals went to *Véronique Bessis* and *Catherine d'Ovidio* of *France*.

A multi-national squad from *Israel, Austria* and

Drumev of *Bulgaria* joined **Karl Rohan** and **Franz Baratta** of *Austria*, **Nissan Rand** and **Moshe Katz** of *Israel*.

The victory of **Boris Schapiro** and **Irving Gordon** in the *Elf Seniors Pairs* was remarkable. At 89 years of age, Schapiro is the oldest person to win a world title at bridge and probably in any sport.

Previously he had won an unofficial event in 1938, The *Bermuda Bowl* in 1955 and the 1962 World Mixed Teams. At the other end of the spectrum the Championships featured a whole host of events for junior players.

They were able to play *Minibridge* and *Mini-bridge Competitif*, the latter being similar to 'real' bridge but minus the conventions as well as the standard version of the game. The former was won by **Amelie Imbenotte** and **Capucine Mourret**, the latter by **Michael** and **Marc Soussand**, all representing *France*.

The *Lipton Ice Tea Junior Triathlon* went to **Paolo Marino** and **Daniele Pagani** of *Italy*. They were also members of the team that won the *Lipton Ice Tea Junior Teams* along with **Riccardo Intonti** and **Andrea Medusei**.

The *Lipton Ice Tea Junior Individual* was won by *Poland's R.Jagniewski*, and fellow countrymen, **Tomasz Przyjemski** and **Marcin Zarembo** won the *Lipton Ice Tea Junior Pairs*.

There were many other events going on and the winners included **Russ Ekeblad** and **Michael Seamon** of the *United States of America* who won the *Cara IMP Pairs*. *India's Sanjoy Damle* captured the second *Coralia Continuous Pairs*. The *Elf Zonal Teams* was open to those players who were eliminated from the *Vivendi Rosenblum* and the *Louis Vuitton McConnell*.

The *Solomon Trophy* is presented to the Country with the best overall per-



Masterminded by WBF President **José Damiani**, the Championships were strongly supported by **Pierre Mauroy**, Mayor of Lille and former Prime Minister of France.

formance and that went to the *United States of America*.

The end of the tournament was marked by a magnificent closing ceremony, followed by a victory banquet that included a superb show staged in the inimitable French style. The consensus was that both had set new standards.

It seemed appropriate that this bridge marathon was immediately followed by one of the more conventional kind when the feet of thousands of athletes pounded the streets of Lille. Did any of them expend as much energy as *Brazil's Gabriel Chagas* who played no less than 742 boards in these outstanding championships?

TEAMS

| | | |
|---|------------|-------------|
| 1 | RAND | AUT-ISR-BUL |
| 2 | SZENBERG | POL |
| 3 | ROSEN | USA |
| | ORLOW | POL |
| 5 | RICCIARELI | ITA |
| 6 | HERTZ | USA |
| 7 | GU | CHN |
| 8 | BALLY | ESP |

SENIORS



PAIRS

| | | |
|---|---------------------|-----|
| 1 | Schapiro-Gordon | GBR |
| 2 | Dupont-Garozzo | USA |
| 3 | Avensleben-Höger | GER |
| 4 | Gigli-Latessa | ITA |
| 5 | Maruggi-Romanin | ITA |
| 6 | Renouard-Farahat | FRA |
| 7 | Hamilton-Sutherland | USA |
| 8 | Schwarz-Robinson | CAN |

Bulgaria captured the *Elf Senior Teams* in remarkable style. In the 28-board final their opponents conceded at half time when the score was an incredible 62-0! Four of the victors were repeating their win in Albuquerque in 1994. This time **Christo**

JUNIORS



A pair representing *Poland*, **Piotr Madry** and **Lukasz Piworowicz** won the *Tropico Schools Pairs*.

The *World Bridge Federation's* support of bridge at this level is unparalleled. They provided all 228 competitors with free meals and accommodation and took them to a *French Premier League* football match!

TRIATHLON

| | | |
|---|------------|-----|
| 1 | MARINO | ITA |
| 2 | PAGANI | ITA |
| 3 | KRISTENSEN | DEN |
| 4 | INTONTI | ITA |
| 5 | NOHR | DEN |
| 6 | MEDUSEI | ITA |



THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE



GRAND PRIX



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The possible inclusion of Bridge in the *Winter Olympic Games* took a significant step forward with the staging of the *International Olympic Committee Bridge Grand Prix* at the

Olympic Museum in Lausanne, Switzerland, September 7-11, 1998.

It would be hard to find a more spectacular setting for a bridge event, the Museum

occupying a site that provides magnificent views across Lake Geneva.

In his opening address **José Damiani**, President of the *World Bridge Federation*, expressed his delight that the Olympic Museum had opened its doors to mind sports. He was followed by **Juan Antonio Samaranch**, President of the *International Olympic Committee (IOC)*, who made the historic statement: *'Bridge is a sport and as such your place is here like all other sports'*.

It was in June 1995 that the IOC first recognised the WBF as an *International Organisation*. Thereafter **Marc Hodler**, IOC Vice President, made visits to the World Championship events held in Rhodes and Hammamet.

The organisation of the *IOC Grand Prix* was requested and presided over by **Juan Antonio Samaranch**, President of the *International Olympic Committee*.

Bridge fans all over the world were able to follow the IOC Grand Prix on the *Internet*. You can find a detailed account of the event at www.bridge.gr.

The competition included the five countries that have been Open Olympiad Champions following the inception of the competition in 1960, *Brazil, Italy, Poland, United States of America* and *France*. *China*, the Far East Champion joined them to complete a global representation.

The teams included many household names:

- **BRAZIL**
Marcelo Branco, Gabriel Chagas, João Paulo Campos and Miguel Villas-Boas.
- **CHINA**
Dai Jianming, Shi Haiojun, Wang Weimin, Wang Xiaojing, Xu Hongjun, Zhang Zhenjun; npc: Chen Zelan.
- **U.S.A.**
Bob Hamman, Paul Soloway, Jeff Meckstroth, Eric Rodwell, Bobby Wolff and Dan Morse.
- **FRANCE**
Paul Chemla, Alain Levy, Christian Mari, Hervé Mouiel, Franck Multon and Michel Perron.
- **POLAND**
Cezary Balicki, Apolinary Kowalski, Krzysztof Mar-



(above) IOC President **Juan Antonio Samaranch** and IOC Director of Sports **Gilbert Felli** with **José Damiani**
(below) WBF President Emeritus **Jaime Ortiz-Patiño** with IOC Vice President **Marc Hodler**



It actually happened!

Level at the end of the qualifying stage, Brazil and China proceeded to finish a most exciting final with exactly the same score!

*Rather than following the tie-breaking procedure, the two teams decided to share the Grand Prix in a demonstration of true Olympic spirit - evident as **Jihong Hu** and **Gabriel Chagas** hold the Cup.*

tens, Jacek Romanski, Marek Szymanowski and Adam Zmudzinski; npc: Andrzej Orlow.

• ITALY

Dario Attanasi, Norberto Bocchi, Giorgio Duboin, Giuseppe Failla, Ruggero Pulga and Gianpaolo Rinaldi; npc: Carlo Mosca.

These six giants played a round robin of 24-board matches at the end of which the two leading teams contested a six-session final of 72 boards.

A thrilling finish to the opening stage saw the table look like this: Brazil 85, China 85, USA 83, France 78, Poland 65, Italy 49.

The eliminated teams were disappointed but they recognised the words of the founder

‘Bridge is a sport and as such your place is here like all other sports’

Juan Antonio Samaranch

(speaking at the opening ceremony of the IOC Bridge Grand Prix)



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE TO THE IOC GRAND PRIX PARTICIPANTS



*On behalf of the Olympic Movement, I would like to welcome to Lausanne, the Olympic Capital, the participants in the **International Olympic Committee Bridge Grand Prix**, taking place at the Olympic Museum.*

In the past twelve months Lausanne has hosted highly successful world championships, and now the World Bridge Federation has spared no effort in preparing the IOC Grand Prix, a major event in bridge. Always a popular game of skill, bridge is open to all age groups and all levels of ability. By organizing international meetings such as the Grand Prix, bridge will contribute to the further development and promotion of its game.

I wish you every success.

Juan Antonio Samaranch
Marquès de Samaranch

of the Olympic movement, **Pierre de Coubertin**, ‘*The important thing is taking part*’.

The final of the *IOC Grand Prix* was undoubtedly one of the most exciting in the annals of bridge as **Brazil** and **China** produced one of the most fantastic finishes in the history of sporting contests. Those who witnessed it will consider themselves to be privileged in the years to come.

The library of the Olympic Museum featured an exhibition of books on the noble art of boxing. How appropriate

that seemed as these great teams stood toe to toe battling out some of the most pulsating sessions of bridge that have ever been seen. At the end they were inseparable, their IMP totals identical!

They were supposed to play four more boards to resolve the tie but like the Olympic Rings they locked arms and both were declared winners. And they were not the only ones as Bridge now stands on the threshold of a great new dawn. A golden age where the greatest prize of all will be the ultimate sporting achievement - an Olympic gold medal.

If all this were not enough, the icing on the cake came when WBF President **José Damiani** revealed that the IOC had already forwarded an invitation for the next edition of the IOC Grand Prix.

Mark Horton

FINAL

BRAZIL-CHINA 167-167

QUALIFIER

| | | |
|---|---------------|----|
| 1 | BRAZIL | 85 |
| 2 | CHINA | 85 |
| 3 | USA | 83 |
| 4 | FRANCE | 78 |
| 5 | POLAND | 65 |
| 6 | ITALY | 49 |

SENIORS



Nissan Rand
Seniors Cmtee Chairman

EUROPEAN SENIOR TEAMS - MALTA

The format of the European Senior Championship in Malta will be the same as for the Ladies Teams, playing probably from Thursday, June 17 to Saturday, June 27. The exact number of hands (rounds) will depend on the registration. If there are 24 teams or less, the format will be a round robin; otherwise, the field will be divided into two round robin sections, with semifinals and finals. A 'Butler' score will accompany the results of each pair in the senior championship to determine the ranking of the pairs for the purpose of making up an all-European Team. The Senior Teams will compete at the same site as the Ladies Teams in Malta, playing the same hands (possibly a few less hands per session).

SENIORS BERMUDA BOWL

It was decided to hold some senior event in Bermuda in January 2000 with up to 3 teams competing from Europe. The minimum format will be an all-European senior team competing with a North American senior team. Details are yet to be discussed.

ADVANCES IN SENIOR BRIDGE

The World Championships held in Lille, France, August 21-September 4, 1998, gave a considerable boost to Senior Bridge. For the first time ever, the semifinals and finals of the Senior Teams Championships were held in the same hall, and played with the same hands, as the four final ladies teams and the eight final open teams. The progress of the semifinal and final senior teams were exhibited on *Bridgerama* along with the other 12 matches that were running concurrently.

Thus, for the first time ever, the seniors could feel that they commanded respect equivalent to the open and ladies events. We wish to express our gratitude to **Jean-**

Claude Beineix who was in charge of running the events.

The 1998 World Championship demonstrated the superiority of Zone 1 in most events and especially for seniors. The multi national European team including a pair from Austria, **Karl Rohan** (captain) and **Franz Baratta**; **Moshe Katz** and **Nissan Rand** from Israel, and **Christo Drumev** from Bulgaria, won the **Senior Teams Championship** in a grand style. Two strong Polish teams captained by **Szenberg** and **Orlow** respectively won the second and third place while the top American team which reached the semifinal stage ended in fourth place.



The British senior pair **Boris Shapiro** and **Irving Gordon** won handily the **Senior Pairs Championship** in Lille ahead of the runners-up from the USA, **Benito Garozzo** and **Lia Dupont**.

A German pair, **B.Vavensleben** and **W.Höger**, won the third place.

The 89-year old **Boris Shapiro** is certainly the oldest person ever to win a world championship. His victory was very well received all over the world.

EBL SENIORS COMMITTEE MEETING

During the World Championships in Lille, a formal meeting of the *EBL Senior Committee* was held which was attended by 6 members of the EBL Executive including the President and both Vice Presidents. The meeting was also attended by delegates from Austria, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Israel, Malta, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey.

The chairman, **Nissan Rand**, announced that in total there were 38 Senior Teams participating in the World Championship of which 27 teams were from European countries (Zone 1) including two multinational teams. 100 pairs participated in the World Senior Pairs Championship of which 76 pairs were from Zone 1 (none were multinational).

The theme of the meeting was that seniors all over the world demand to be treated with respect as their younger colleagues are. The consent of the meeting was such that this aim was basically achieved in Lille when the tournament chairman **Jean Claude Beineix** detailed the format of the senior world championship.

The Seniors Committee discussed the **5th Senior Pairs Championship** which will be held in Warsaw, March 15-20, 1999, sponsored by *Prokom Software*. EBL President, **Bill Pencharz**, asked the committee members to encourage as

many senior players as possible to attend, stressing that Warsaw is a beautiful city and offers excellent conditions for the tournament.

Andrej Orlow, President of the *Polish Bridge Union*, and member of the EBL Senior Committee, informed the meeting that negotiations were underway to offer discounts for players using the Polish Airline *LOT*. It was decided that the Senior Pairs will play only one session a day of 26-28 hands in the three qualifying sessions, and 28-30 hands in the three final and two consolation sessions.

On the subject of the **Senior Teams Championship** in Malta, it was reaffirmed that each NCBO can send one or two national teams. Transnational teams of European players will also be accepted in Malta provided that at least 2 players in the transnational team represent a country that is not otherwise represented by a national team. This means, for example, that Poland can send two national teams, and in addition they can help countries such as Lithuania, Ukraine, Romania and Slovakia to form a multi-national team which may include 2 Polish players in each multi national team. The make up of each multi-national team must receive approval from the *EBL Senior Committee*, following proper application.

LADIES



Anna Maria Torlontano
Ladies Committee Chairman



PROGRAMME

- Saturday 12 June, 7.00 pm
Opening Ceremony
- Sunday 13 June, 1.30 pm
Qualifying Rounds
Session 1
- Sunday 13 June, evening
Qualifying Rounds
Session 2
- Monday 14 June, 1.30 pm
Qualifying Rounds
Session 3
- Monday 14 June, evening
Championship Final
Consolation Final
Session 1
- Tuesday 15 June, 12.30 pm
Championship Final
Consolation Final
Session 2
- Tuesday 15 June, 7.00 pm
Cocktail and **Prize Giving**
- Wednesday 16 June
Start of the
GENERALI European
Ladies Teams Championship

GETTING READY FOR THE EUROPEAN LADIES PAIRS '99

As Malta '99 is coming up, the *EBL Ladies Committee* is completing preparations for the **7th European Ladies Pairs Championship**. Sponsored by *GENERALI* - the 'Insurer without frontiers' - the tournament will take place June 13-15. Chairman *Anna Maria Torlontano* reports:

The **European Ladies Pairs Championship** is open to all National Ladies Pairs and also to the Lady players whose standard of bridge is well known in their own country. Those pairs wishing to participate in this International and very prestigious tournament should apply to their Federations. We know that each country has a number of Ladies Pairs, not selected to play internationally but who, nevertheless, have the necessary expertise to participate in this event, and we want to give them the opportunity to compete in this great Championship.

Venue

The **7th GENERALI European Ladies Pairs Championship** will be held in conjunction with the **European Teams Championship** in Malta, starting on Sunday 13 June 1999, at the same time as the Open Teams, and ending on Tuesday 15 June, before the start of the Ladies Teams Championship.

Malta is a wonderful island, with a wealth of history to be discovered. Our **opening ceremony**, hosted by the National Tourist Organization of Malta, will be held in the magnificent old knights' hospital in the capital city of Valletta, which will give all the participants a taste of Malta's rich and fascinating heritage.

The main **venue**, the *Hotel San Gorg*, is located in a peaceful bay by the sea, a short walk from the busy restaurant, bar, Casino and night-spot areas of Paceville and St Julians.

Programme

The Championship will consist of:

- 3 qualifying sessions
- a final played over 2 sessions and
- a consolation final (also 2 sessions)

Please, also note that:

- **Bidding boxes** will be used throughout.

- The final will be played with **screens**.
- There will be a **carry-forward score** for pairs qualifying for the final.
- **Money prizes** will be awarded to the leading ten pairs in the final and to the leading five in the consolation. Beautiful **prizes** offered by the *Malta Bride Federation* and other sponsors will also be awarded to pairs in finals.
- **European Master Points** will be awarded on the usual Championship scale.

Entries

Entries must be made by **20 May 1999**, although late entries may be accepted at the Championship venue provided there is sufficient space.

The **entry fee** for the Championship will be 280 Swiss Francs per pair.

Information

Brochures about the event are now available from your NCBO, or can be obtained by contacting:

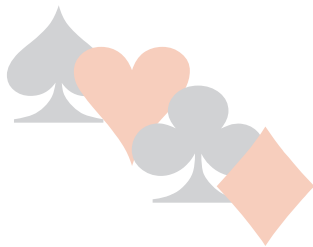
Anna Gudge
The Old Railway Station
Long Melford, Sudbury
Suffolk CO10 9HN
Great Britain

☎: 44-1787-881 920

☎: 44-1787-881 339

✉: anna@ecats.co.uk

We hope as many pairs as possible will come to Malta for the 1999 Championship, which we are sure is going to be a very enjoyable and exciting event. The Ladies Committee is taking care to present a tournament of very high quality. You will be able to play in a very prestigious international competition, experience the exciting atmosphere of the European Teams Championships and, at the same time, enjoy the scenery and historical atmosphere of the wonderful Island of Malta. What more could you possibly want?



• This is an abridged list of the tournaments scheduled to take place in Europe in the first half of 1999. More information is contained in the comprehensive publication *1999 EBL Competition Calendar*.

JANUARY

14-17 International Bridge Memorial of Marycy Rustecki / Olsztyn, **Poland**

14-17 7th *Taoro Parque* Bridge Tournament / Tenerife, **Spain**

28-Feb. 5 33rd Israel International Bridge Festival / Tel Aviv, **Israel**

30-Feb. 7 Vienna Bridge Congress / Vienna, **Austria**

APRIL

2-5 Easter Festival of Bridge / London, **Great Britain**

10-11 34th Kaasstad Tournament / Alkmaar, **The Netherlands**

MAY

7-20 50th International Bridge Festival *Juan-les-Pins* / Juan-les-Pins, **France**

20-25 14th Grand Prix of Portugal / Estoril, **Portugal**

28-May 2 International Berlin Championships / Berlin, **Germany**

21-24 45th European Bridge Assembly / Vichy, **France**

21-27 12th International Bridge Tournament 'Costa Calida' / Murcia, **Spain**

22-27 1st Cyprus International Bridge Festival / Larnaca, **Cyprus**

27-30 32nd Tallinn International Bridge Festival / Tallinn, **Estonia**

29-30 13th Bridge Tournament / Badhoevedorp, **The Netherlands**

FEBRUARY

16-21 13th International Bridge Festival 'des Jeux' / Cannes, **France**

26-28 *Abano* International Teams Championship / Abano Terme, **Italy**

26-28 *Buxton* Spring Congress / Buxton, **Great Britain**

27-March 5 5th Malta International Bridge Festival / St. Julian's, **Malta**

21-23 5th Luxembourg International Bridge Tournament / Pétange, **Luxembourg**

JUNE

1-6 14th International Bridge Festival 'Locomotiva' / Bucharest, **Romania**

5-11 International Bad Griesbach Bridge Festival / Bad Griesbach, **Germany**

12-26 **44th GENERALI European Championships** / Malta

15-26 17th International Bridge Festival / Albena, **Bulgaria**

25-27 *Carta Mundi* Bridge Festival / Ostend, **Belgium**

29-July 11 *Biarritz* International Bridge Festival / Biarritz, **France**

MARCH

7-13 12th Festival *Isla de Tenerife* / Canary Islands, **Spain**

11-15 22nd Budapest International Bridge Festival / Budapest, **Hungary**

15-20 **PROKOM Software 10th Open & 5th Seniors European Championships** / Warsaw, **Poland**

24-28 Kalamata International Tournament / Kalamata, **Greece**



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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. 3,000 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 8,000 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 42 EBL member countries.

All correspondence should be addressed to:

EBL Review
P. Gerontopoulos, Editor
154 Patission Street,
GR-112 57 Athens,
Greece.

☎ 30-1-861 3740
✉ review@bridge.gr