

EBL

Junior Review

July-December 1997

No. 4

Editor: Panos Gerontopoulos



EUROPEANS WIN WORLD JUNIOR PAIRS

FINAL RANKINGS

1	SOLBRAND S-WADEMARK O	SWE	61.87
2	DRØGEMÜLLER M-REIM S	DEN/GER	60.45
3	BROGELAND B-HANTVEIT I	NOR	59.94
4	WALLERSTEDT M-WIKLUND R	SWE	59.81
5	GRZEJDZIAL I-KIELICHOWSKI	POL	59.13
6	D'AVOSSA-MALLARDI M	ITA	58.36
7	NICOLODI F-FARAGONA B	ITA	58.20
8	KONOW K-ZAGORIN D	DEN/USA	57.98
9	GEITNER J-ROMBAUT J	FRA	57.96
10	LEVINGER A-LIRAN I	ISR	57.95
11	MAZZADI F-MEDUSEI A	ITA	57.82
12	MARINO P-PAGANI D	ITA	57.66
13	VAN PROOIJEN R-DE WIJS S	NLD	57.45
14	SHANI S-WAX Y	ISR	57.18
15	OLTMANS A J-ZWERVER F	NLD	56.03
16	KATZ N-VARSHAVSKI A	ISR	56.62
17	BIERNAT K-SIWKO A	POL	56.62
18	KOT P-POHORECKI M	POL	56.32
19	HAKKEBO S-STANGHELLE D	NOR	55.32
20	BALSHUN R-LINDE J	GER	55.14

The 2nd World Junior Pairs Championship took place in *Sportilia*, a Sports Academy situated high on Italy's Apennines mountains, 11-13 July 1997. It was a record success, with 156 pairs from 27 countries and five World Bridge Federation geographical zones taking part.

As usual, most pairs came from Europe, but once again the *American Contract Bridge League* (ACBL) was well represented, and there were small delegations from Central and South America, as well as from Australia. The great disappointment came from the Far East, who had been expected to contribute a number of pairs; unfortunately, none showed up due to total lack of support from non-caring local administrators.

The tournament was played in four sessions, without qualifying and final stages. It was scored with the *barometer* system, which allows competitors to follow their real score as the game progresses within a session. The *Italian Bridge Federation* (FIGB) are to be congratulated for providing all the technical material (including thousands of duplicated boards) and personnel required for such a demanding service.

The first session saw the French Schools champions **Geitner-Rombaut** taking the lead, ahead of **Mazzadi-Medusei** of the host country and **Wallerstedt-Wiklund** of Sweden.

Geitner-Rombaut retained their position after the second session - and so did **Wallerstedt-Wiklund** - but another pair appeared to be threatening the leaders: **Grzejdzial-Kielichowski** of Poland who were just a fraction behind.

The third session gave **Grzejdzial-Kielichowski** the opportunity to enjoy loneliness at the top, 1.5% ahead of Swedish newcomers **Solbrand-Wademark**, and 3% before Norwegian defending champion **Boye Brogeland** partnered by **Tront Hantveit**.

The final session did not go well for the leaders who had to succumb to **Solbrand-Wademark**. **Brogeland-Hantveit** remained third, but the silver medal went to Denmark's **Mette Drøgemüller** and Germany's **Sebastian Reim** who came from behind to finish in second place.

The Championship finished with a wonderful buffet dinner and the prize giving ceremony, honoured by the presence of WBF President **José Damiani** and EBL Vice President **Anna Maria Torlontano**.

JUNIORS GOING UP & D



*Santa Sofia
Forlì
Italy*

14-22 July 1997

Following the *World Junior Pairs Championship*, the **2nd World Junior Bridge Camp** for young players from all over the globe took place in the wilderness of the Italian Apennines mountains, between Bologna and Rimini. The European juniors were joined once again by a large delegation from the USA and Canada, the event rounded up by entries from Australia, Mexico and Guadeloupe.

Life is a steady *up and down*, but more than ever the Juniors proved that a Bridge camp is as well. Going *up* 900m to the get to the sports academy, *Sportilia*, was the effort everybody had to make, to reach the venue, just to find himself going *down* at least once or twice during the tournaments, as the weight of a normal human being, or even a junior or an organizer, combined with weak plastic chair legs and a slippery marble floor forced many to get acquaint-

ed with the law of gravity and kiss Italian earth, resulting in 25 possibilities to sit and the nickname *Camp of the broken chairs*.

To get to know each other better, bridge at camps always starts with an **Individual** tournament. And to follow the same line for convenience of the boards, all the players had to move *up* and *down* some tables, just to find out if the three opponents they met there were in a good or bad mood that special night.

Further **Pairs** tournaments and a **Swiss Teams** held over two nights, tried to feed the juniors' hunger to play Bridge; however, this seemed to remain the impossible task as the Juniors immediately started to fill their free time with more events. But the bridge programme had a lot more to offer than pure competition. This year two lecturers, **Mark Horton** from Great Britain and **Sean Mullanphy** from

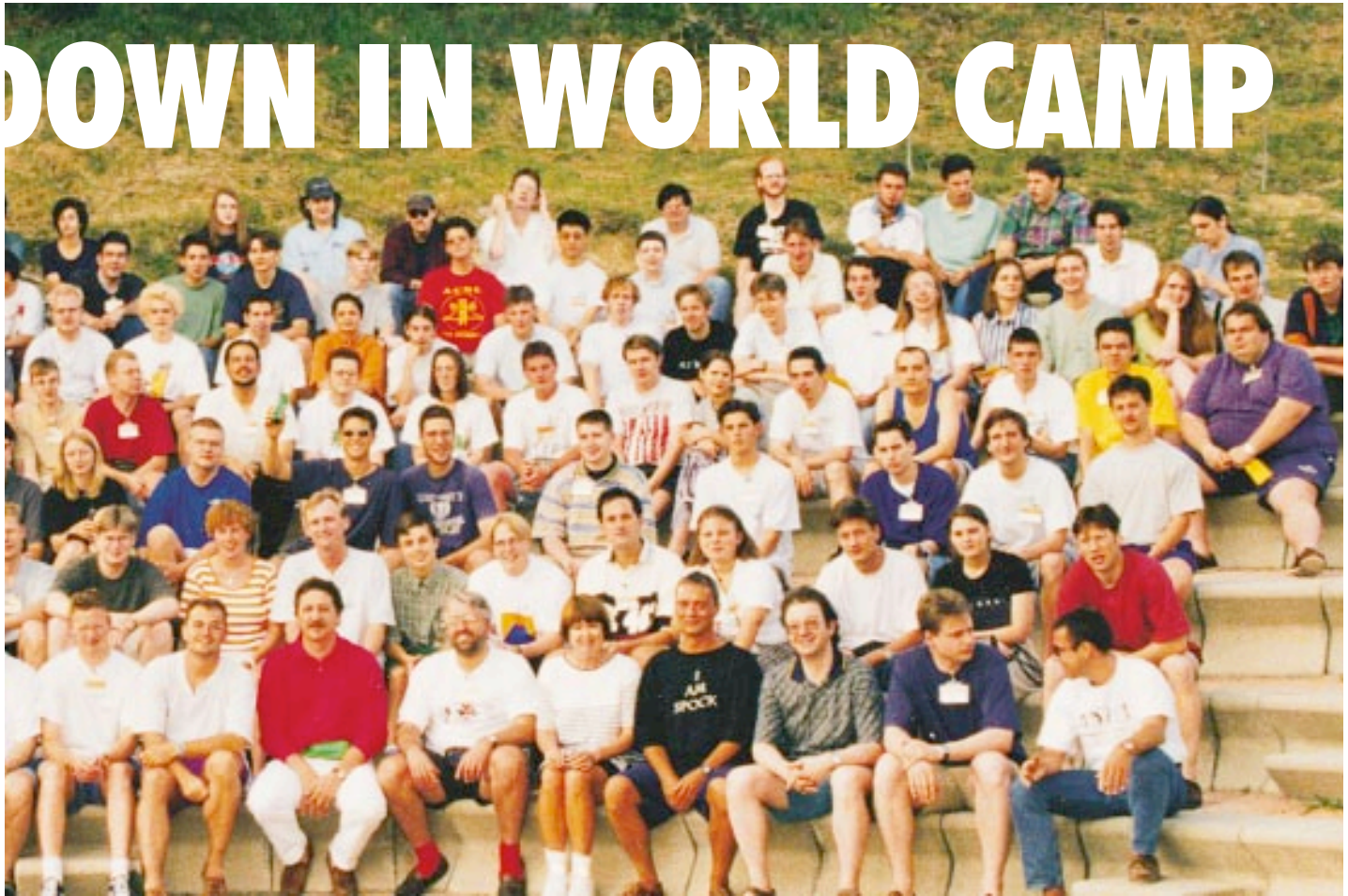
Australia taught the advanced and the beginners how to go *up* in the rankings by bidding and playing better and **Charlotte Blaiss**, who accompanied the American delegation, organized a **Bidding Challenge**, where only the caddies went *down* once or twice in a hurry to deliver the bidding sheets. Finally, the ultimate tournament before the closing of the camp, the **Crazy**, was once again a big success and good fun.

Breaking a world record, and therefore the biggest '*up*' of this year's camp, was the **outing** to Venice. Going *down* the mountains at 9 o'clock in the morning to reach the city of the most beautiful canals in the world after more than three hours of driving was a challenge to the spirit (and the alarm clock) of the juniors. And the unbelievable came true: more than 100 participants in two big buses lived to see *Piazza San Marco*, the famous *Campanile* and the *Rialto Bridge*.

No one has ever counted how often players go *down* at the table, but it was easier to do so at the non-bridge events. A '**Crazy Decathlon**' was held in the football stadium of the sports academy, where, among other disciplines like **shotput the bidding-box** or **cigarette javelin**, everybody had to cross **50m of hurdles**, where some went *down* unintentionally, do a **blindfolded long jump**, where everybody went *down* intentionally, and a **50m backward relay**, where the camp lost its last men standing.

To make things even worse, the following day, a **Treasure hunt** sent the Juniors *up and down* the hills surrounding *Sportilia*, to find out that (i) there's a point in having an Italian siesta at noon; (ii) the earth isn't flat; and (iii) a lot of the mean clues were difficult to solve. But there was no time to rest as the following day a '**Trioball**' tournament, including football, basketball and volleyball, was scheduled

DOWN IN WORLD CAMP



for the afternoon, replacing the siesta once again.

On the last evening of the camp everybody stood *up* to applaud the winners of all the camp events. Special awards went to this year's best Pairs player with three different partners from three different countries to win the **Youth Cup**, donated by Dirk Schroeder: **Tomasz Przyjemski** from Poland.

The tension went *up* even more when Panos Gerontopoulos, Chairman of the Youth Committee, announced the winners of the 1997 **WBF Youth Awards** for showing great camp spirit (see next column).

The celebrations ended with the traditional on-stage performances of all delegations, where no participant let us *down* and the mood was *up* on high until long after midnight, before it was time to say goodbye until 1999.

Stefan Back

1997 WBF YOUTH AWARDS WINNERS



The first award goes to a participant from one of the 'low' countries. In many ways this person typifies the characteristics embodied in a successful candidate. Friendly towards his fellow participants and willing to take part in every event, always with a different partner or group, with the prime objective being to have a good time, regardless of the outcome. This behaviour has been in evidence at a number of camps, but now the junior career of the recipient of this award is almost at an end. Aged 24, he works for an Insurance Company in the field of computers. **Schelte Wijma** of The Netherlands.

The second candidate is Scandinavian. A veteran of the camps, but still facing many years as a junior he is blessed with the ability to make new friends seemingly at will. His standard answer to every request is 'no problem'. He has earned the respect of his fellow participants by his behaviour both at and away from the table. He has a deserved reputation for maintaining contact with his colleagues, even crossing continents for a game of bridge. It is a mark of his popularity that he is best known by his nickname, by now familiar to you all. Aged 20 and still a student, 'Snus', alias **Daniel Stanghelle** of Norway.

The third award goes across the water. Its recipient proved to be one of the friendliest inhabitants of the camp. Conversations with his fellow participants quickly established that beneath his somewhat exuberant exterior lay a warm sense of humour and considerable personality. His kindness towards his partners at the table and his willingness to accept the blame endeared him to everyone. The stories of his homeland, relating to both his life and his bridge adventures never failed to be of interest. Aged 25, practically an 'oldie' he trades grain futures at the Chicago Board of Trade. **Daniel Zagorin** of the United States of America.

The final award goes to someone who typifies the definition of a suitable candidate: always willing to lend a helping hand, cheerful and friendly, with an enthusiasm not only for bridge but for many activities which take place during a camp. Adept at dealing with problems, she was frequently the first on hand when an emergency arose. She was nominated in vast numbers by players from every corner of the globe, evidence of her deserved popularity. Her behaviour both at and away from the table was in accordance with the now firmly established traditions of the camp. Her performance was simply 'dynamite'. Aged 24 she works in an office in Copenhagen. **Mette Drogemüller** of Denmark.

RECORD ENTRY IN WORLD JUNIOR TEAMS

The 6th World Junior Teams Championship, due to be held in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, 4-13 August 1997, will be the best attended ever. 18 teams, representing all geographical zones of the World Bridge Federation, have entered the tournament; this is the maximum number allowed by the WBF. These teams will be soon competing for the precious Ortiz-Patiño Trophy, symbol of supremacy in the ambitious world of young bridge players.

Format

The Championship consists of a *qualifying stage*, *semifinals*, a *final* and a *playoff* for third place.

The **qualifier** is a round robin where each team meets all other competing teams in 16-board matches.

The four top teams will advance to the 64-board **semifinals**. The two semifinal winners will play in the 96-board **final** from which the new World Junior Team Champions will emerge; the losers will participate in a 64-board **playoff** to determine third place.

A special **Swiss Pairs** tournament will be arranged for those failing to qualify. Any other Junior player (born in 1972 or later) may also participate in this event. No nationality restrictions will be imposed on the composition of the competing pairs.

Programme

The Championship will start on *Monday 4 August 1997* with a Reception by the Mayor of Hamilton. The official **Opening Ceremony** will take place on the same evening.

The qualifying stage will begin on Tuesday morning and will continue until Sunday, with free times for trips to Niagara Falls and Toronto.

The semifinals will be played on Monday 11 August, the day the Swiss Pairs begin. The final will start on Tuesday, together with the playoff for third place. The Swiss Pairs and the playoff will be concluded on this day, while the final will continue until Wednesday afternoon.

The Championship will end with the **Victory Banquet** on the evening of Wednesday 13 August 1997. Departure is on Thursday.

Venue

Hamilton (pop. 300,000) is a port city situated at the western end of Lake Ontario, half way between Toronto and the Niagara Falls, some 50 km from Toronto International Airport. Located in an extensive fruit-growing area, the city is the site of one of Canada's largest open-air markets, and it is one of the country's major financial centers.

The tournament will be played at the Hamilton **Convention Center**, in downtown Hamilton, which combines first class convention facilities with numerous possibilities for shopping, dining and entertainment within a few steps.

Accommodation to all participants and accompanying guests will be offered at the **Sheraton Hamilton**. This is a luxury hotel, directly connected to the Convention Centre, with superb facilities, including a Mediterranean pool, health club and jacuzzi.

The organizers have negotiated special accommodation rates for the **Sheraton Hamilton**, and will provide free transportation from Toronto airport to the hotel and vice versa to all visitors.

ORTIZ-PATIÑO TROPHY



Zone 1 (Europe)

- Norway
- Russia
- Denmark
- Israel

Zone 2 (North America)

- United States 1
- United States 2
- Canada Red

Zone 3 (South America)

- Argentina
- Brazil

Zone 4 (Asia, Africa & ME)

- India
- Pakistan

Zone 5 (Central America)

- Colombia
- Martinique/Guadeloupe

Zone 6 (Pacific Asia)

- China
- Japan
- Chinese Taipei

Zone 7 (South Pacific)

- Australia

Host Country Team

- Canada White

PREVIOUS VENUES & WINNERS

1987	Amsterdam, The Netherlands	The Netherlands
1989	Nottihngam, Great Britain	Great Britain
1991	Ann Arbor, MI, USA	USA
1993	Århus, Denmark	Germany
1995	Bali, Indonesia	Great Britain



VIENNA RATHAUS TO HOST 1998 EUROPEAN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

Fritz Kriftner, President of the Austrian Bridge Federation, and EBL President **Bill Pencharz** signed a formal agreement for the staging of the **16th European Youth Championships** in Vienna, 17-27 July 1998.

The Championships comprise two series for national teams: the

Juniors (for players up to 25 years old) and the *Schools* (for players up to 20), and is open to all EBL member countries.

The venue of the Championships will be the famous *Rathaus* (Town Hall), where a number of cultural activities take part regularly every year.