

EBL

Junior Review

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31 YEARS AFTER THE FIRST TOURNAMENT JUNIOR BRIDGE RETURNS TO BIRTHPLACE

THE CZECH REPUBLIC TO HOST 1999 WORLD JUNIOR PAIRS & CAMP

The **3rd World Junior Pairs Championship** and **3rd World Junior Camp** will be held at **Nymburk's Sports Centre**, in the Czech Republic, **July 9-11** and **July 12-20**, 1999 respectively.

Nymburk is a small town, some 50 km east of Prague. The **Sports Centre** lies at the edge of a beautiful park, and is equipped with all the facilities one would expect, including a swimming pool.

The **World Junior Pairs** will be played over *four* sessions, using the *barometer* system, starting on the night of Friday 9 July night and continuing on Saturday (afternoon and evening) and Sunday afternoon. The prize giving ceremony is on Sunday night.



The **Junior Camp** will start on Monday 12 July and will continue through the night of Tuesday 20 July. The Camp programme includes *physical sports* in the morning, *bridge lectures* (for two levels of players) in the afternoon, and a *bridge tournament* in the evening. There will be outings and outdoor games - and lots of free time when the participants are encouraged to organize their own events.

At Nymburk, participants will be lodged in double or 3-bedded rooms with private facilities (WC and shower) on a full-board basis, at the favourable rate of SF 50 (Swiss francs) per person per night. Free transportation will be provided from/to Prague airport and railway station.

The **World Junior Pairs**, a transnational event, have always been won by European Juniors. The current title holders are **S.Solbrand-O.Wademark** of Sweden. In the **Camp**, emphasis is not on winning but on aptitude, diligence and international spirit. Those who distinguish themselves in these fields are candidates for the prestigious **WBF Youth Awards**.

The Czech Republic has a special emotional value for Junior bridge. It was in the capital Prague that the first European Junior Bridge Team Championship was held in August 1968, giving birth to what has since become a worldwide movement for the development of bridge among young people.

3rd World Junior Pairs Championship
3rd World Junior Camp



9-11 July 1999

**Nymburk Sports Centre
Nymburk
Czech Republic**

12-20 July 1999

ITALY SCORES DOUBLE VICTORY IN

In July 1998, the *Österreichischer Bridgesport Verband* (Austrian Bridge Federation) was host to the European Youth Championships in **Vienna**, Austria. The event was held at the magnificent **Wiener Rathaus** (Vienna City Hall), a historic building dating back to the times of the Empire. The *Rathaus* was, beyond any doubt, the most attractive venue the European Youth Championships - and probably any bridge tournament - have ever been hosted at. Located in the centre of the Austrian capital, it provided a grandiose playing room and ample traditional space for all tournament operations.

The courtyard of the *Wiener Rathaus* provided a splendid setting for the opening ceremony. In a glorious sunshine, **Anna Gudge**, a member of the EBL Youth Committee, acted as *Master of Ceremonies* and introduced the speakers. Dr **Franz Kriftner**, President of the Austrian Bridge Federation, was followed by **Werner Amon**, at 29 years old the youngest member of



1. ITALY



2. DENMARK



3. ISRAEL

JUNIORS

1	ITALY	394
2	DENMARK	391
3	ISRAEL	389
4	NORWAY	386
5	RUSSIA	382
6	SWEDEN	356.5
7	TURKEY	352
8	AUSTRIA	338
9	POLAND	335
10	NETHERLANDS	331
11	HUNGARY	324.5
12	BELARUS	316
13	GREAT BRITAIN	307
14	ICELAND	300.5
15	FINLAND	285
16	CROATIA	279
17	GERMANY	272
18	FRANCE	268
19	CZECH REPUBLIC	242
20	YUGOSLAVIA	234.5
21	GREECE	191
22	SPAIN	176

the Austrian Parliament, **Panos Gerontopoulos**, the Chairman of the EBL Youth Committee and EBL Secretary, and finally **Bill Pencharz**, the President of the *European Bridge League* who declared the Championships open.

The European Youth Championships, held every even-numbered year, are for national teams of young players. There are two series: the **Juniors** (for players up to 25) and the **Schools** (for players up to 20). Each country may enter one team in each series, and the winner is determined after each team has met every other team of the series.

Play in Vienna got underway in the **Junior** series right after the opening ceremony. With **22** teams com-

peting and 20 boards in each match, there was a total of 420 boards to be played in ten days. Somewhat easier was the programme in the **Schools**, where **14** countries lined up.

The Juniors

From the beginning it became clear that **Italy** was going to win a medal in the **Junior** series - probably the gold. The Italian Juniors climbed into first place in round 9. They were followed by **Norway**, **Israel** and **Russia** who were competing not only for the medals but also for one of the four qualifying places implementing Europe's representation in the **1999 World Junior Team Championships**.

EUROPEAN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

The reigning world champions, **Denmark** had a poor start but they made a dramatic comeback in the second half of the tournament in an effort to catch the leaders.

Fortunes fluctuated on one of the most exciting final days we have ever witnessed at a major championship. Even at the dying moments the medals were unde-

saved the best for the end and conceded no further ground. The 5 VPs they received was enough. Bravo **Italy!**

Denmark had the maximum 25 VPs in the bag at an early stage against **France**. That proved to be enough to give them the silver medal. **Israel** struggled for a while against **Germany**, but they pow-

erful in front when it mattered. They secured the fourth qualifying spot, but there was much sympathy for **Russia** who only fell at the very last.

The Schools

In the **Schools** series, **Italy** was the unquestionable winner before the event was halfway through. They celebrated their victory and the *Italian double* with a convincing victory against **France**.

In the race for the remaining medals **The Netherlands** trounced **Russia** and captured the silver. **Poland** found themselves in deep trouble against **Germany** and at one stage a medal looked unlikely. However, they rallied gallantly and although they lost the battle they won the war. Poland gained the bronze medal by finishing 5 VPs ahead of **Sweden**, who did all they could with a 25-0 blitz on **Israel**.

The Championships were very well organized thanks to **Gavriel Unger** and his team of volunteers. *Parsec*, one of the main sponsors of the tournament provided excellent technical equipment.

The details of the event - results, bulletins etc. - were also covered on *Internet*, and are available at the familiar address: www.bridge.gr

Thanassis Matziaris



1. ITALY



2. THE NETHERLANDS



3. POLAND

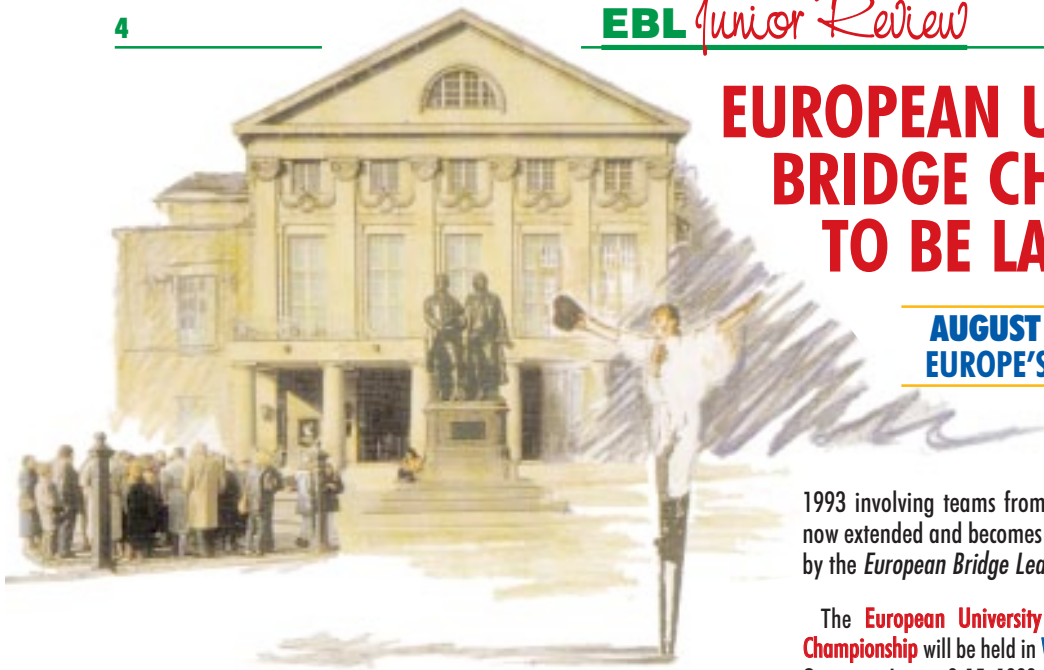
ceded. Italy's seemingly secure hold on the gold medal was shaken by **Great Britain**. They raced into a 38-0 lead and with just three boards to go the Italians were looking down the barrel. However, like true champions they

ered home in the second half to capture the bronze.

Russia and **Norway** fought each other to a standstill, and it was only on a dramatic last board in front of an overflowing Vugraph audience that the Norwegians got their noses

SCHOOLS

1	ITALY	286
2	NETHERLANDS	241
3	POLAND	239
4	SWEDEN	234
5	NORWAY	216
6	ISRAEL	197
7	GERMANY	192.5
8	FRANCE	190
9	HUNGARY	178
10	GREAT BRITAIN	159
11	RUSSIA	157
12	YUGOSLAVIA	146.5
13	AUSTRIA	145
14	IRELAND	72



EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP TO BE LAUNCHED IN '99

**AUGUST 9-15 IN WEIMAR, GERMANY
EUROPE'S CULTURAL CAPITAL FOR 1999**

The *University Bridge Championship*, a competition which got off the ground in 1993 involving teams from member countries of the *European Union*, is now extended and becomes an official European Championship, organized by the *European Bridge League*.

The **European University Bridge Championship** will be held in **Weimar**, Germany, August 9-15, 1999.

For the first time, it is open to all European countries who are members of the EBL. Each country may enter one national team to the competition, consisting of 4-6 eligible players who need not be associated with the same University. The eligibility rules (see on the left) are set up by the *International University Sports Federation* (FISU).

The Championship format is a round robin between all contestants.

Since the inception of the University Championship, the rule has been to associate it with the *cultural capital of Europe*. 1999 will be no exception, as **Weimar** will carry the prestigious title next year.

Previous events organized by the *European Union Bridge League* (EUBL) were held in **Antwerp**, Belgium (1993); **Lisbon**, Portugal (1994); **Århus**, Denmark (1996); **Palermo**, Italy (1997) and **Skövde**, Sweden (1998). The first competition in 1993 was won by **Germany**, while **The Netherlands** were champions in 1997. All other titles have been won by **Denmark**, who are also the reigning champions.

With the dissolution of EUBL, the tournament was undertaken by the EBL. The new *EBL University Committee* is chaired by **Paul Magerman** of Belgium, former EUBL President, and includes **Marc de Pauw** of Belgium, former EUBL Treasurer, and **Panos Gerontopoulos** of Greece, *EBL Youth Committee* Chairman.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE

In accordance with the regulations set up by FISU (International Federation of University Sports), eligible to participate are students who are properly registered and follow a full time course of study at a university or an institution of similar status. In addition, former students who have graduated in 1998 are also acceptable.

All competitors must be amateurs and have the nationality of the country they represent. They must have been born in the period 1971-1981. All players will be asked to submit a health certificate.

The selection of the team is the responsibility of the National Bridge Federation of the participating country.

INFORMATION

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1999 WORLD JUNIOR TEAMS TO TAKE PLACE IN FLORIDA

The **7th World Junior Teams Championship** will take place in Florida, USA. As announced by the *World Bridge Federation*, arrangements are being made for the tournament to be staged in Fort Lauderdale, August 5-14.

The World Junior Teams is held every odd-numbered year. Contesting the *Ortiz-Patiño Trophy*, symbol of world supremacy at junior bridge, are representatives of the seven WBF geographical zones.

The Championship was inaugurated in 1987 and has always been won by European teams, except in 1991 when the Trophy went to the USA. The title holders are **Denmark**.

EUROPEAN JUNIORS HAD GREAT TIME IN ACBL CAMP

The **2nd ACBL Junior Camp** was held in Delafield, Wisconsin, USA, August 3-9, 1998 - and some 20 European Juniors grabbed the opportunity to be part of it, thanks to the support of the EBL.

The Camp was staged at *St. John's Northwestern Military Academy*, and attracted an entry of about 80 Juniors who had a great time!

As usual, there were bridge tournaments every day, as well as lectures by top players. A number of planned activities outdoors had to be called off because of the rainy weather which, nevertheless, fitted



well an outing to the famous *Wisconsin Dells* water park!

Junior Camps are unique in that they address the great mass of young players rather than the top few, as it is inevitable with the Championships.

Camps have existed in Europe since 1976, but North America followed suit only in 1996. WBF Junior Camps are now held every odd-numbered year, in conjunction with the **World Junior Pairs Championship**.