



4TH
EUROPEAN BRIDGE
CHAMPIONS CUP

BRUSSELS 13TH - 16TH OCTOBER 2005

Daily Bulletin

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Bulletin I

Thursday 13th October 2005

WELCOME !

Dear players, officers, journalist and guests,
Thank you for coming and welcome to Brussels for the 4th edition of the European Champions' Cup.

This championship is one of the European Bridge League's most important events and offers the occasion to show the greatest European bridge champions playing in a very strong competition, everywhere in the world, thanks to the new technological systems. Thanks to its format and to the high level of the participating teams the Champions' Cup is really a fantastic instrument, able to attract the attention of the media, sponsors and thousand of spectators. I am sure that Brussels, this extraordinary town, which celebrates this year the 175th Anniversary of the Kingdom of Belgium and the 25th Anniversary of the Federalism, will have the same success achieved in the previous editions in Warsaw, in Rome and in Barcelona. I am pleased to thank the Belgian Bridge Federation and its President Fred Van Meerbeeck, the City of Brussels and its Mayor, Freddy Thielemans, who will host us for a reception in the prestigious City Hall, the Organising Committee, led by Michel Berryer,



and our sponsor-friends who allowed us to organize, manage and run this event. A special thank goes to the management of the Hotel Metropole who helped us very friendly in hosting the championship.

As you know, this year the event is more significant since we had the opportunity, thanks to Mr. Jan Figel, European Commissioner for Education and Sport and Mr. Philippe Busquin, Member of the European Parliament and past Commissioner, in the first three days of the week, to present Bridge at the European Parliament (with a great success thanks to the efforts of my dear friends and colleagues Marijke Blanken-Burgers and Marc De Pauw), showing what really Bridge means, what its values are and why the International Olympic Committee recognized it as a true sport.

I hope that all of you will enjoy the championship and your stay in Brussels. I am sure that once again, all together, we will witness that the real values of bridge, also in this dramatic historical period, continue to go beyond any barrier and discrimination, proudly waving the flag with our motto: Bridge for peace.

Un abbraccio.
Gianarrigo Rona

Today's
VuGraph & BBO Matches

16.00 Belgium – Netherlands (VG)
Italy Parioli – Russia (BBO)

20.30 Denmark - Poland (VG)
Italy Allegra – Turkey (BBO)

Programme & Schedule of play
Thursday 13th October

- 15.30 Captains' Meeting
- 15.45 Opening
- 16.00 Round Robin 1st match
- 19.30 Dinner
- 20.30 Round Robin 2nd match

Round Robin Schedule

GROUP A

Round 1	Italy Parioli - Russia Poland - England France - Denmark
Round 2	England - Italy Parioli Russia - France Denmark - Poland
Round 3	Italy Parioli - France England - Denmark Poland - Russia
Round 4	Denmark - Italy Parioli France - Poland Russia - England
Round 5	Italy Parioli - Poland Russia - Denmark France - England

GROUP B

Round 1	Belgium - Netherlands Sweden - Turkey Germany - Italy Allegra
Round 2	Sweden - Belgium Netherlands - Germany Italy Allegra - Turkey
Round 3	Belgium - Germany Sweden - Italy Allegra Turkey - Netherlands
Round 4	Italy Allegra - Belgium Germany - Turkey Netherlands - Sweden
Round 5	Turkey - Belgium Italy Allegra - Netherlands Sweden - Germany

Bridge for Peace

by Marijke Blanken-Burgers



Philippe Busquin, member of the European Parliament and great supporter of bridge, offered the WBF and the EBL the opportunity to show our sport in the European Parliament. A University team of

Bratislava, a school team from Italy, a school team from France (the youngest of them all, ages between 14 and 16) and a combined seniors team from Belgium and The Netherlands played against each other. On Monday they started and the seniors made it quite clear that you are never too old to play bridge. On Monday evening a cocktail was served for the members of Parliament and the guests invited by the WBF and EBL. In his speech Philippe welcomed everybody and expressed his satisfaction that this manifestation took place inside the European Parliament.

On Tuesday the game went on while Philippe Cronier and Odile Beineix gave mini bridge lessons in the morning and a lecture for bridge players in the afternoon. While everybody was very busy playing and teaching Tomas Brenning took care of the scoring, Gianni Bertotto was the TD and Marijke Blanken tried to persuade all visitors of the stand to start playing bridge. At lot of material was available: bridge lessons in French and English, bridge books, magazines and cards.

The final match was today between the team of Bratislava and the Turin team. The Slovenes won glamorously with 96 to 45 IMPs. All teams returned home feeling proud of having had the opportunity to play in the European Parliament and show that bridge is a sport for all us, from 8 to 98, at any level anywhere in the world.