

Chief Editor: **Mark Horton** - Editors: **Patrick Jourdain, Stefan Back** - Layout Editor: **Stelios Hadjidakis**

Welcome to Aachen

Willkommen in Aachen

Thirty countries are represented at these, the 5th European Mixed Championships. When today's registration process is complete we will know the precise number of competitors, but it is already certain that a new record has been established.

To mark the occasion we are going to attempt something very unusual. We intend to try and feature at least one pair from every country in our daily reports. If you find a member of the bulletin team seated at your table, remember this may be your chance for immortality! Of course, you may perpetrate a brilliancy whilst we are otherwise engaged. No problem, just bring the story to our office, located on the first floor in Room K1.

We are testing some new photographic equipment at this event, so please remember to smile for the camera!

On Tuesday evening the television channel WDR will present coverage of the Championships and for those who want to look their best they will be filming on Monday.

Elsewhere in this issue you will find some essential information, so please read everything carefully.

To help you find your way around Aachen, this bulletin includes a map of the City. It highlights the location of several nearby restaurants and snack bars.

Don't forget that clocks go one hour forward tonight.

Bulletin pages in German

To please readers of the host country of European championships, there will be pages in their language in the bulletins of all EBL events.

The German pages in Aachen will be called "Die Homepage" and all players and journalists are kindly requested to provide articles, funny incidents and other stories fitting for these special pages.

Of course your articles are very welcome in the language of the host country, but you can also write in English and we'll make some proper German out of it. Unfortunately we're less capable in translating from Finnish or Bulgarian, but the time of these languages will come in future events for sure.

Mixed Pairs Programme

11.00 - 14.00 hrs

Registration

15.15 - 19.00 hrs

First Qualifying Session

20.15 - 23.45 hrs

Second Qualifying Session

EBL Treasurer

By a 10:0 vote (with one abstention) the EBL Executive Committee resolved on 26th March 1998 to relieve Mr. Feijo Durksz of all financial duties. Dr. Gianarrigo Rona has been appointed acting treasurer of the League, with full financial responsibilities.

Note:

- (i) Mr. Feijo Durksz retains the title of Treasurer
- (ii) The decision of the Executive Committee does not reflect any question on Mr. Durksz' financial integrity.

Bill Pencharz

President of the EBL

The Prize-Giving on Monday Night

To honour the winners of the Pairs event there will be a prize-giving ceremony on Monday night in the hall of the famous riding club, ALRV. Important events in show jumping, dressage and carriage competition are held at the ALRV. The annual CHIO in Aachen is one of the outstanding horse riding events in the world.

Bus transfer to ALRV will be provided from the EUROGRESS at 6 p.m., but all players who came by car are invited to take their own vehicle and just follow the busses. There is a lot of parking space and you will have more flexibility for your return journey.

If you want to join the busses, just leave the EUROGRESS, turn right and find them on the main street. If you go by car, just follow the busses or leave EUROGRESS, reach the main street, turn right and right again at the next crossing into "Krefelder Straße". Then turn left at the 4th traffic light following the sign "ALRV". Turn right into "Hubert Wiener-Straße" and you will see the hall "Albert Vahle-Halle". Park immediately on the big parking place on the right of the hall.

The ceremony will be divided into three parts. In the entertainment section there will be a horse show containing different "pictures" including an in-

roduction to the different types of horse, a dressage performance by the reigning Junior European Champion and a carriage performance. Very different from that will be the performance of the World Champions in formation ballroom dancing, TSC Schwarz-Gelb Aachen, who will present to the audience a Samba programme.

The show programme will be followed by the prize-giving for the 5th European Mixed Pairs Championship. After the formal part of the programme a 'finger buffet'-supper will be served in the restaurant of the ALRV.

Although the riding hall is heated, please remember it can be cold at this time of year. And one more piece of advice for all the women: Avoid high heels, as you may have to walk in the sand!

There will be a return bus at about 10 p.m., but be aware that if you want to stay longer you will have to find your own way home!

Please register for the prize-giving ceremony at the Hospitality desk no later than 7.30 p.m. on Sunday evening, as the organisers have to know the exact number of participants!

To enter the Casino

In their hospitality bag all players will find invitations from the Aachen Casino: a plastic card guaranteeing free entry for the duration of the championships.

With this card you are welcome to enter the Casino as often as you like. All you have to do is present your plastic card at the reception of the Casino, mention that you belong to the Bridge group and get your "real" ticket there.

Don't forget that correct dress is required. Ties can be borrowed at the Casino, but you are not welcome wearing jeans. Furthermore you will have to have your identity card or passport with you to enter the Casino. Via a separate entrance you will also find a room with all kinds of slot machines, where casual dressing is allowed.

The famous and elegant Aachen Casino offers all kind of games one can think of and invites everyone to pay it a visit.

The Flag Solution

Crisis meeting of the organising committee: How do 15 flag poles in front of the EUROGRESS correspond with 29 countries participating in the championship? Quite understandably, the organisers were eager to find a solution to this problem without spending a fortune on building up 14 more flag poles.

As everybody would like to see his flag up in the air, it took some long and hard thinking to develop the so-called "shift"-solution. To cut a long story short, the flags waving in front of the EUROGRESS will vary during the championships.

An important matter had been settled. Nevertheless unfortunately there was no solution to a smaller detail concerning the flags. There was absolutely no way to find flags of four of the participating countries although everybody tried very hard to get them. The organisers regret this very much and hope that nobody's play will be effected and no feelings will be hurt.

Announcement of the EBL Senior Committee

Meeting

Who: **EBL** Executive members
NCBO Presidents and delegates interested in Senior Bridge competitions
All Senior players playing in the Mixed Pairs and Teams events in Aachen

When: Tuesday, March 31, 1998: 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Where: Eifel room, conference room No. 7 on the 2nd floor of the EUROGRESS

- Agenda:
- 1) Future European Senior Bridge competitions:
 - a) 5th European Seniors Pairs Championship, March 15 - 20, 1999 in Warsaw, Poland
 - b) 3rd European Seniors Teams Championship, June 20 - 27, 1999 in Malta
 - 2) Promotion of Senior Bridge competitions in Europe: Open discussion
 - 3) Election of members to the Senior Committee (to meet in Lille, August 1998, Warsaw, 1999 and Malta 1999).

Dr. Nissan T. Rand
 Senior Committee, EBL Executive

European Pair Wins American Major in Reno

From Daily Bulletins edited by Henry Francis & Brent Manley; via Internet by Chyah Burghard

Reproduced by permission of the IBPA

Geir Helgemo of Norway & Tony Forrester of Great Britain won the Open Pairs, ending a string of five NABCs where they were runners-up in major national events.

Michael Becker & Michael Kamil were 2nd and David Berkowitz & Larry Cohen 3rd. In five of the last six NABCs Berkowitz-Cohen and Helgemo-Forrester placed 1-2 or 2-3.

This was Forrester's first NABC win. Helgemo was in the winning Open Swiss Team at the 1997 Spring NABC in Dallas.

Together, the two have been runners-up twice in the Blue Ribbon Pairs, twice in the Life Master Pairs and once in the Open Pairs.

Helgemo, with regular partner Tor Helness, won the Macallan Open Pairs in London in January, and defends his title as Generali World Mens Individual Champion in Corsica in April.

Format: 440 pairs in 2-session qualifier; then 208 pairs in 2-session final.

Results

1	Geir Helgemo - Tony Forrester	3528.02
2	Michael Becker - Michael Kamil	3400.71
3	David Berkowitz - Larry Cohen	3319.56
4	Charlton Buckley - Bruce Ferguson	3319.31
5	Edward Barlow - Evan Bailey	3312.69
6	Nick Nickell - Richard Freeman	3310.81
7	Kit Woolsey - Ethan Stein	3308.09
8	Richard Schwartz - Mark Lair	3272.83
9	Eric Greco - Geoff Hampson	3268.41
10	David Adams - Dennis Sorensen	3265.35
11	Roger McNay - Troy Horton	3255.48
12	Sigurdur Sverrisson - Adalsteinn Jorgensen	3245.64
13	Bob Hamman - Steve Weinstein	3237.87
14	Gunnar Hallberg - Brian Glubok	3231.82
15	Michael Moss - Bjorn Fallenius	3230.55

The winners scored well on this deal:

Dealer West; Love All

	♠ A Q 10 8 7 2		♠ 6 5 3
	♥ A Q J 7		♥ K 10 4
	♦ A 7		♦ 8 4
	♣ 4		♣ A Q 7 6 2
♠ 9		♠ K J 4	
♥ 9 6 5 3		♥ 8 2	
♦ K Q J 2		♦ 10 9 6 5 3	
♣ K 8 5 3		♣ J 10 9	

West	North	East	South
Helgemo		Forrester	
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
Dble	4♠	5♣	Pass
Pass	5♠	All Pass	

Both Helgemo and Forrester passed the first time around, but Helgemo tried a takeout double on his second turn. He had the ideal distribution even though he had only 9 HCPs. After North leaped to the spade game, Forrester concluded quickly that the save was with the odds. In 5♣ was likely that he would lose a spade, two hearts and a diamond, assuming Helgemo had some kind of favorable diamond holding.

If 5♣ had been doubled, he would have received a good score because 5♣ goes down only two tricks – minus 300. But North wasn't satisfied with a penalty – he wanted his game. He took the push to 5♠, and declarer had to lose one trick in each side suit. This was worth 100 matchpoints on a 103 top for the champions.

Hungry at night?

The **Palm Bistro** in the Aachen Casino (next door on your left) has a special offer for all bridge players. They will serve meals after the evening sessions at moderate prices.

As they need to know how much food they will have to prepare, players must buy vouchers to benefit from this offer. These can be bought on Saturday morning at the "Black Jack" table set up by the Casino on the ground floor of the EU-ROGRESS and - after registration has finished - you can get them at the Hospitality Desk as well.

Each voucher is valid for a certain day, so you can't just

buy a voucher and have food "sometime", but of course you can buy vouchers in advance for all the days the championship lasts. Every day there will be a menu, on which you can see what you can get and the price for the food will be below DM 20.

Of course, you may enjoy the service of the **Palm Bistro** during the daytime without any vouchers; it will be open from 12 noon on every day.

Be aware that besides the **Palm Bistro** it will be hard to find food in Aachen at that time of the day. Their kitchen is excellent and has a widespread reputation. Enjoy your meals!