

7th EUROPEAN LADIES PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP



MALTA
13-15 JUNE 1999

7th GENERALI European Ladies Pairs

The event

The **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, nev-

ertheless, have the necessary expertise to participate in this event, and we want to give all of them the opportunity to compete in this great Championship.

The **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**. It will be played at the **Hotel San Gorg**, a lovely venue, which is where the Ladies Teams Championship is to be played.



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Although only about 15 minutes gentle walk from the busy restaurant, bar, Casino and night-spot areas of Paceville and St. Julians, the main **venue** is located at the peaceful bay point by the waters edge.

In mid June the **weather** will be a warm but dry heat, probably about 27°C - 33°C mid-day, normally cooling to a pleasant 21°C at night. Of course, these super modern hotels are air-conditioned throughout. Even at the five star hotels, **dress** is informal although smartly casual in the evenings, jackets and ties are NOT required throughout, not even for the 'Opening' and 'Prize Giving' ceremonies. However, for those who may wish to go to the Casino, a jacket must be worn. Maybe a light cardigan may be useful by the water's edge at night.

Also, when not at the bridge table and if not in a sightseeing mood, a multitude of **outdoors activities** is available. These include tennis, diving, sailing and other water sports and golf at the 18 hole Royal Malta Golf Club (transportation to the golf course for guests from the three main hotels is free).

Because it is so small, 30x15 kms, it will be easy for Pairs 'sitting out' to explore. Those who are less adventurous can relax by the pool or enjoy a swim in the clear warm, about 23°C, Mediterranean Sea.

This event will be a wonderful opportunity to participate in a high-level Bridge Championship, such as you may have dreamed of. You could perhaps organise a holiday at the same time, bringing your family or friends with you. We have available some excellent suggestions which we feel sure will be of great interest to you and your family.

The Opening Ceremony, hosted by the NTOM, will be held in the magnificent old knights' Hospital in the capital city of **Valletta**. This spectacular venue will also give all participants a taste of Malta's rich and fascinating heritage.

Then, for three days you can have the excitement of participating in a European Championship, the thrill of competing against many of the top lady players in Europe.



Opening Ceremony

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Hotels

The main complex comprises of 3 hotels, the **Radisson SAS**, the **San Gorg Corinthia** and the **Marina Corinthia**. The **Open** and the **Vugraph** will probably be located at the **Radisson**, and the **Ladies Teams** and **Pairs** and the **Senior Teams** will be at the **San Gorg** (the EBL reserve the right to switch the playing venues.

from the *San Gorg* and 4 minutes from the *Radisson*. All three hotels are very modern and comfortable with direct sea frontage. Special group rates have been obtained by the EBL for all participants and the Press.

Special reduced rates have also been obtained from several other hotels within a 10-15 minutes walk from the playing venues. Hotels beyond those suggested are not really recommended as the weather will be hot and taxis are expensive. Also, traffic can be very heavy.



Reservations/Information

The Malta Bridge Association and the EBL have appointed **Bridge Malta** as Championship co-ordinators. Having organised four international bridge Festivals and a number of other events, the **Bridge Malta** principals, **Margaret Parnis England** and **Mario Dix** are well acquainted with the special needs of bridge players at this type of event. **Bridge Malta** are responsible for handling all hotel reservations and airport transfers (only 15 minutes) which are **complimentary** for those reserving through **Bridge Malta**:

- ☎ 356-380 333 / 380 444
- 📠 356-380 555
- ✉ mario@bridge.org.mt

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The **San Gorg** is only 2 minutes walk from the **Radisson** and the **Marina** is 2 minutes

Hotel	Rating	Rooms	Twin Lm	Single Lm	H/B Lm per person	Walk time to venue
St.Gorg Corinthia	5* gold	175	60	44	+9	Ladies/Seniors
SAS Radisson	5* luxe	185	53	37	+8	Open/Vugraph
Marina Corinthia	5* silver	185	47	35	+5	2 mins
Bernard	4* silver	50	28.60	34	+3.25	9 mins
Eden Beach	4* silver	50	28	20.25	+3.25	10 mins
Rafael Spinola	3* gold	35	25	16.50	+2.75	17 mins
Villa Rosa	3* silver	100	20.25	15.50	+3.25	7 mins
Ascot	3* silver	50	19	12.50	+3	12 mins
Rokna	3* silver	15	17.50	12.50	+2.50	15 mins
St Georges Park	3* silver	100	20.50	15	+3	12 mins

Rates are quoted in Maltese Liri (Lm). At the time of writing, Lm 1=\$2.57

Travel

There are direct flights from most major European cities. **Special discounts are offered by AIR MALTA, the official carrier, to all the players, officials and supporters who are registered members of their Bridge Federation.** These members must pres-

ent their Membership Card, when collecting their tickets. For further information, please contact **Bridge Malta** or your local **AIR MALTA** representative.

For those who wish to travel by car or coach, it is possible to do so via Sicily by either ferry or a quick catamaran (1 hour 40 minutes).

St Gorg Corinthia



SAS Radisson



Marina Corinthia



Bernard



Eden Beach



Villa Rosa



Rafael Spinola



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Excursions

Discounted tours have been arranged. If you intend to remain for some days after the Championship - and it is well worth while - we have put together some special tours to make your stay in Malta truly memorable. When making your room reservation, please specify which tours you wish to join.

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Gozo is the legendary island of Calypso, the daughter of Atlas who is said to have kept Odysseus enthralled here for seven years. We will take the car ferry from Malta to Mgarr Harbour, and begin with a visit to Gozo's capital city **Victoria** and its ancient fortified Citadel, within which we will visit Gozo's Cathedral. We then drive to **Ggantija** Neolithic temple.



full day: **Wednesday 16th June**

Gozo

Lm**15.50** (about \$40)

TOUR
A

After a three course lunch (including wine and coffee) we will visit **Dwerja** to see the 'Azure Window', Fungus Rock and the Inland Sea. Finally, after a visit to **Ta' Pinu** Sanctuary, we return to Malta on the ferry.

half day: **Thursday 17th June**

Harbour Cruise

Lm**8.00** (about \$20)

TOUR
B

The cruise begins from Sliema Ferries, with spectacular views of **Valletta** and its Bastions from Marsamxett Harbour. The boat then proceeds to the Grand Harbour and will view 'The Three Cities' of **Senglea**, **Vittoriosa** and **Cospicua**. The cruise also passes through the dockyard, where super-tankers and cruise liners are repaired. A guide on board the boat will give full commentary throughout. We will then proceed to the Malta Crafts Village at **Ta' Qali** where those who wish will have time to shop!

Valletta is the 16th century capital city of Malta and this tour begins with a walk around the *Upper Barracca Gardens* for a panoramic view of the Grand Harbour. Then we proceed to *St John's Co-Cathedral*, and finally to the *Grand Master's Palace* which houses the Maltese Parliament, the offices of the President of Malta, the 'State' Rooms, Tapestry Chamber and the Armoury.

half day: **Friday 18th June**

Valletta

Lm8.00 (about \$20)

TOUR
C

We then go by coach to the silent city of **Medina**, formerly the capital of Malta, with its bastions which date back to the 9th century and offer a panoramic view of the whole island.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE COURSES

Many of you may feel that you are missing out by not being able to speak English very well. Malta is very well known as an excellent centre for teaching English to foreigners. One of the better established schools, which is only about 15 minutes walk from the main venue hotels, is called the **Elanguet Language School**. A one week course here costs just Lm45 (about \$120). This course, for example, has 4 lessons each morning starting at 8.45 and finishes at about noon, leaving the rest of the day free for other leisure activities; but there are many other different courses, some of which are more intensive, whilst others are just for English conversation. You can profit from improving your English during your stay, as could your children. So, do give it some thought!

Elanguet Language Centre
Keating House
Ross Street, St Julians, Malta.

☎ 356-374 777

📄 356-375 372

🌐 <http://www.waldonet.net/mt/english>



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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, Session 1
Consolation Final, Session 1

Tuesday 15 June, 12.30 pm
Championship Final, Session 2
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**

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• Format

The Championship will consist of three qualifying rounds and two final rounds; **bidding boxes** will be used throughout and the final will be played with **screens**. There will be a carry-forward score for pairs qualifying for the final.

Chief Tournament Director:
Max Bavin

• Entry Fees

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

The method of payment will be advised to NCBOs by the Treasurer in due course.

• Entries

Each NCBO will be required to send its final entry for the Ladies Pairs by **20 May 1999**, although late entries may be accepted at the Championship venue provided there is sufficient space. All players wishing to participate in this event must, therefore, inform their NCBO in good time so that nominations can be sent to the EBL Credentials Committee in accordance with the conditions of entry. As is usual for European Championships, participation is by invitation of the EBL.

• Prizes

Money prizes will be given to the winning pairs: to the first 10 in the Final and to the first 5 in the Consolation event.

Beautiful prizes offered by the Malta Bridge Federation and other sponsors will also be given to pairs in both the Final and Consolation events.

• Master Points

European Master Points will be awarded on the usual Championship scale.

• Delegates' Meeting

There will be a Meeting for the Ladies Delegates during the course of the Championship.

Great care is being taken by the Ladies Committee to present a tournament of high quality. You will be able to experience the exciting atmosphere of the GENERALI European Teams Championship, to play in a very prestigious international competition and, at the same time, to enjoy the scenery in one of the most beautiful parts of Europe.