Dutch and Germans win
PHILIP MORRIS European Mixed

INSIDE

- Editorial .................. 2
- David Bardach honoured 2
- 1994 European Youth Championships 3
- Letter from the President 4
- 9th Worldwide Bridge Contest 4
- Royal distinction to André Boekhorst 5
- Interview with Jon Baldursson 6
- 1994 GENERALI Masters 7
- 1994 PHILIP MORRIS European Mixed 8-9
- Israel: a promise bridge-land 10
- European Ladies Jamboree 11
- Readers’ Corner 12
- Convention Cards get computerized 13
- New Books 14
- Competition Calendar 15

- Dutch and Germans triumph in record-attended
  1994 PHILIP MORRIS
  European Mixed Championships .......... 8-9

- Israel has become a bridge promise land ........ 11

- European Bridge is expanding 3% every year ... 11

- How natural or artificial should bidding systems be? .......................... 12

- How can a Convention Card be completed with a personal computer .......... 13
Going through the pages of this issue, one may notice the ‘inconsistency’ between the growth and the activities of bridge in certain parts of Europe and the zone as a whole, and the completely different picture which exist in other areas of the continent.

This ‘inconsistency’ is not only related to bridge, of course, but follows the existing situation in almost all aspects of life between Western and Eastern countries.

The statistical table on page 11 speaks better than any words. Although European bridge is steadily growing, the increase in membership does not come from where it is most needed, but from the countries whose figures are - and have been for many years - prospering.

The cure of this imbalance is the most serious challenge we face today. In theory, everything is clear: the EBL and the developed countries should help, while the countries who get the help must make good use of it.

In practice, the situation leaves much to be desired. Despite the unquestionable good will, the lack of a specific plan for the support of the Eastern countries is obvious. Unfortunately, circumstantial help is not going to win the battle.

On the other hand, it is not constructive that almost all the help requested by the Eastern countries has the form of financial support for the participation of certain players in big tournaments. Offers, like the Promotion Week seminar organized by the EBL last year, pass more or less unnoticed, although they touch upon the core of the problem.

All of us need, therefore, a new attitude. The situation is not easy, nor will the problems be solved in a day. However, if we don’t start, we shall never finish. And we must finish, for the sake of bridge - and all of us.

---

**The Highest Distinction**

**EBL Gold Medal to David Bardach**

David Bardach of Israel, the Honourary Secretary of the European Bridge League who died last summer, was awarded posthumously the EBL Gold Medal for his services to international bridge for 15 years.

The Gold Medal is the League’s highest distinction. Only three other persons have received it in the past:

- Geoffrey Butler of Great Britain (1975),
- Jaime Ortiz-Patiño of Switzerland (1983) and

---

**Debbie Wolff (1936-1994)**

Debbie Wolff, wife of World Bridge Federation President Bobby Wolff died 5 April, after a long battle against cancer.

An ACBL Life Master and a fine player, Debbie offered great support to her husband, especially during his term as President of the ACBL and then of the WBF.

Her amiable character won the hearts of the people she met and worked with. Europeans have a vivid remembrance of her visit to the Menton Championships last year - and, quite appropriately, EBL President José Damiani dedicated the 1994 GENERALI Masters to her memory.

---

**Ed Theus (1913-1994)**

Ed Theus, President of the World Bridge Federation Congress, died at the age of 80, in Oklahoma City, USA, 3 April 1994.

Ed Theus was a talented player, and had many successes at the bridge table including second place in the ACBL Life Masters Pairs 1966. However, it was as an administrator and a tireless worker for the game that he made his mark in North America and World bridge.

Theus was first elected to the ACBL Board of Directors in 1961 and was re-elected eight times, serving a record 27 consecutive years on the board. He was President of ACBL in 1969 and Chairman of the Board in 1970. In 1989, he was named ACBL President Emeritus, the only person so honoured.

In 1969, Theus was elected North American delegate to the World Bridge Federation and joined the WBF Executive Council. He remained there until 1986, at which time he was First Vice President. He was later appointed President of the WBF Congress, which position he retained until last year.

Ed Theus captained North American teams to the Bermuda Bowl twice.

As a lawyer, he had a keen interest on the Laws of the game. He served on the ACBL Laws Commission, and chaired the International Laws Commission which revised the Laws of Duplicate Bridge in 1987.
Spectacular launch of the European Schools Championship

The European School Team Championship, the new official tournament open exclusively to players up to 20 years old, is making a most spectacular launch. Thirteen countries have announced their participation in the inaugural event which starts in Arnhem, The Netherlands, 18 July 1994.

The tournament will run as a separate series at the same time as the established European Junior Team Championship which is for players up to 25. The two series together form the European Youth Team Championships.

The 14th European Junior Championship starts in Arnhem a few days earlier, 15 July, to accommodate entries from 22 countries. Both series will end 24 July.

Every European NCBO is entitled to enter one team in each of the two series - Juniors and Schools. The winner will be determined by the result of a round-robin of 20-board matches played by all participants.

In the Juniors, the new European champions will receive the David Pigot Cup, earning the right, together with the other medallists, to represent Europe in the 5th World Junior Championship scheduled to take place in Bali, Indonesia, next summer. The first ever European champions of the Schools series will be awarded a new Cup, especially donated by EBL President José Damiani.

The venue of this year’s Championships is the magnificent National Sports Center Papendal, situated on the outskirts of Arnhem. Many Dutch national teams train in this center and the facilities are superb.

The Opening Ceremony for the Juniors will take place the evening of Friday 15 July, followed by the first round of play. Commencing Saturday, three matches will be played each day, but some sessions will be left free for sightseeing and for giving players the opportunity of getting together and socializing. The welcome for the Schools participants is on Monday 18 July; play will follow the same schedule as the Juniors.

Vugraph will be in operation during all sessions, admittance to the playing rooms will be limited.

The Daily Bulletin will be transmitted all over the world daily by means of the Internet electronic world-wide network.

The Prize-giving Ceremony for both series is on the evening of Sunday 24 July. This will mark the end of a demanding event which is expected to go on record as one of the best organized ever. This is guaranteed by the experience and great efforts of the Dutch Bridge Federation, and the support of many international experts in the various fields.

The PEPSI International Youth Bridge Festival

An International Youth Festival was held in Den Bosch, the Netherlands, 12-16 January 1994, sponsored by PEPSI.

Eight European countries (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy and Poland) were invited to send teams to join two Dutch teams in the main competition.

The main team tournament, played as a round-robin, was won by Denmark. Great Britain finished second and Italy third.

Three tournaments followed: a Swiss Teams for Juniors and Under-20s, a pairs tournament for Pupils (aged 12-15) and a Minibridge event for players 9-12 years old.

The Swiss Junior Teams were won by Netherlands II, with Great Britain second and Denmark third. The best under-20s team was Poland.

A full house with more than 250 players, guests, parents, spectators and the Press, was enough for the organizers to announce a 16-nation event next year.

The 2nd University Championship

Following the first most successful event last year in Antwerp, the 2nd European University Bridge Championship will take place in Lisbon, Portugal, 22-28 August 1994.

The event is organized by the European Community Bridge League and Federação Portuguesa de Bridge, under the auspices of FISU, and it is open to one national team from each country of the European Union.

For information and entries, please contact the Portuguese Federation.
Playing bridge with pleasure

Following Menton, this is the second time we heard words of praise from the hotels we used for our tournaments. They both extended their wish to have us back again and again...

For all of us - players and administrators - this carries, of course, a significant meaning, since not only is our economic power fully recognized, but we are also liked as individuals.

The second contest of this year was the GENERALI Masters Championships.

Here, we experienced the same favourable situation.

The image of bridge has improved tremendously, as the result of the general improvement of the players’ attitude.

Despite the pressure of the game at this high level, the relationship of the players with one another and with the organizers, the Press, the kibitzers and the hotel staff was a model of courtesy and enthusiasm.

We are on the way of making bridge more and more attractive, at least for the players themselves. Hopefully, this will soon be extended to the spectators, too.

We must take into account the difference between people who like to watch football or tennis, and those who like to play bridge.

We should be pleased that we have achieved at least one of our goals: to enjoy our game.

Thank you for playing bridge with pleasure!

I t is significant for bridge players to be liked also as individuals

New Zealanders win 9th Worldwide Bridge Contest

The 9th Worldwide Bridge Contest, held in bridge clubs all over the globe on 10 and 11 June, was a great success. Nearly 100,000 players spread in 5 continents, 90 countries and 3,000 cities took part in the ever popular tournament.

This year, the winners came from New Zealand. Playing in the Wangharei club, A. Bouwer and J. Ruddell scored 1932 points to top the general classification. They were followed by Fournier-Hedoux (1873 p.) who played in Saudi Arabia, and Liyanming-Hanwenzhong of China (1862 p.).

The two biggest zones did not repeat last year’s success.

The best Europeans were M. Hoskins-A. Southwell of Great Britain who finished in fifth place with 1844 p., and the best North Americans Sue J. Cooper-Hugh W. Hughes of USA, who ended up sixth with 1792 p.

Technology at the top

The high level of the tournament was matched by the technical resources provided by FRANCE TELECOM, the technical partner of the event.

Thanks to satellite links, pictures of the heat being played in the People’s Great Hall in Beijing could be viewed at the Eiffel Tower in Paris, the White House Hotel in London and the Grand Hotel in Stockholm. At the same time, Chinese players, including the Vice Prime Minister and several Ministers, could watch heats being played in Paris.

Other high towers where heats where held were Montreal’s Olympic Tower, New York’s Empire State Building and the American Club in Tokyo. The special ‘tournament of the stars’ held there was won by Michel Abecassis and Philippe Soulet playing N/S in Paris, and Tommy Gulberg and Madeleine Swanström who played as E/W in Stockholm.

At the same time, a ‘long distance computer match’ was played using EPSON computers linked by modem. Elisabeth Delor and Colette Lise competed from the Eiffel Tower against Kay Praddy and Norman Salway who played at the White House Hotel in London. The match ended with the French pair winning 54 to 46.

As always, participants of the Worldwide contest were benefited from a well-designed booklet containing all of the hands of the tournament, expertly analyzed by Omar Sharif.
Boekhorst receives royal distinction

André Boekhorst, First Vice President of the European Bridge League, received a high level distinction by the Queen of the Netherlands for his contribution to bridge over many years.

Boekhorst, 60, entered the Executive Committee of Nederlandse Bridge Bond (NBB) as a member in 1965. In 1974 he became Honorary Secretary and served at this post until 1989, when he was unanimously elected President.

At the European level, André Boekhorst became active for the first time in 1968, when he became the Chairman of the then newly-founded EBL Youth Committee and organized the 1st European Junior Championship in Prague. He remained at the same post for 17 years, during which European Junior Bridge rose to full status. In 1973 he was elected to the Executive Committee, and was re-elected in 1977 and 1981. In 1983 he became the League’s Second Vice President and in 1987 its First Vice President.

Premature resignation

Boekhorst stepped down from the Presidency of Nederlandse Bridge Bond last June, rejecting widespread pressure to continue in office.

At the NBB Annual General Meeting held in Aardenburg, Zoeland, 250 representatives of the Federation’s 30 districts bid farewell to the person who had served the game more than anybody else in the country for 29 consecutive years!

It was most fitting that Her Majesty’s the Queen of the Netherlands chose this moment for awarding him the order of knighthood Oranje Nassau for his great contribution. This is the third highest distinction in the Netherlands, out of a total of 30 distinctions.

Boekhorst was active in almost all fields, and especially the Juniors. He considers the introduction of bridge in the world of politicians and business leaders as his greatest achievement. Indeed, bridge is nowadays fully accepted and recognized in the Netherlands.

During his presidency he set the goal of the NBB’s reaching a total membership of 100,000! At the time of his premature resignation, NBB membership stood at an astonishing 97,000. This is the highest in Europe, and the second highest in the World following the United States - a country with a population of 250,000,000 compared to Holland’s 15,000,000.

Great Leader

Perhaps André Boekhorst’s personality is best described through the comments of prominent people and his collaborators in the Netherlands. Here is a small collection of such comments as published in the Dutch Press:

• Til Gardeniers (Minister of Culture and personal friend): André is a man I like to meet every day. A great leader with an impressive social engagement who made bridge so popular in the Netherlands.

• Henk van Aarst (NBB Honourary Member and former Treasurer): A perfect leader who kept bridge out of scandals and negative publicity. He could have stayed for years and years without losing the overwhelming support he always enjoyed; unfortunately for NBB, he found that he had enough.

• Jaap Kokkes (former top player): A diplomat, who gets along with everyone.

• Enri Leufkens (World Champion): The first charming, nice and humorous President I have seen. His speeches... - my goodness, nobody is better!

• Ton Schipperheyn (Author and Administrator): He gave so many impulses. Wherever he went activity started and people got busy and worked hard. An inspiring leader who left the scene once he had made everybody busy.

• Heleen van der Velde (Principal of the school where Boekhorst is employed): He creates superb pedagogical climax with great sense of humour and he is always relaxed with the students. I would praise God if I had only people like him.

Epilogue

What does André Boekhorst say about himself? As always he keeps it short but right to the point: Enough is enough! My successor, Laurens Hoedemaker, is 16 years younger and a very good one. Thanks to everybody for the support they offered me.
Congratulations, Jon, on winning the Second GENERALI Masters, but the first to which the world’s best players have been invited. Can we start, please, however, at the beginning.

I was born in 1954 in Reykjavik, to a large family where my father was a manager in the fishing industry. I am now an accountant with Icelandair.

I am married to Elin Bjarnadottir, with two boys aged 6 and 8, and a teenage step-son.

How did you start playing bridge?

I left school when I was 18, and started training as a printer. The same year I was taught bridge by my friends, and began going to the local club. Two years later I was selected for the Icelandic Junior team, and the following year I was in the Open team which went to the 1975 European Championships held in Brighton.

What successes have you had with Iceland in international bridge?

We did well in the 1986 Olympiad, reaching the last six of the Rosenblum, and a couple of years later we won the Nordic Championships. But the key year was 1991.

How did you find playing in the Individual this year in Paris?

You need luck to win, of course. The other competitors were kind enough to play better when they partnered me, than when they played against me!

My usual system is Strong Club, but I was happy to play the standard one because I thought it handicapped some of the other competitors more. I don’t play rubber bridge, but that didn’t seem to be a disadvantage. My policy of opening light seemed to work well.

What are your interests outside bridge?

I am a 21-handicap golfer. We have many courses in Iceland, but, sadly, can only play 5 months of the year. As a youngster I was a good chess player with an ELO rating of 1875, but I gave it up at the age of 16.

If you had a magic wand and could change something about modern bridge, what would it be?

I would like all systems, even Strong Pass, to be permitted at a much lower level. It might seem unfair at first, but people would find the strange methods became familiar.

Would you like to end with a message for the bridge public?

Don’t worry, be happy! I used to be irritated at the table, but things have gone better for me since I became more even-tempered.

Thank you, Jon, for your time. And well done indeed.
Following the great success of the GENERALI European Individual in 1992, the project was repeated and expanded this year to include expert players from all WBF Zones.

52 men players and 28 women gathered in Paris’ Sofitel Hotel, 27-29 April, to compete in this prestigious tournament in which only natural bidding systems were allowed.

Almost all top European players were present in Paris, while the USA was represented by Edgar Kaplan and Hugh Ross in the Men, and Kerri Sanborn (previously Shuman) in the Women. The key figures from the other Zones were Zia Mahmood of Pakistan, Gabriel Chagas of Brazil, Steve Hamaoui of Venezuela and Zwang Weili of China.

The Men

The Men’s series was played in four sessions. Henri Szwarc of France took an early lead with an exceptional score (67.56%), followed by Gabriel Chagas. One session later, Szwarc and Chagas were still doing well, but Mari and Roudinesco had overtaken them. Nevertheless, the tournament had a new leader: the sole Icelander in the field, Jon Baldursson. The battle for the title continued almost until the end, but Baldursson was not to be beaten. He finished first, closely followed by Mari, with Roudinesco and Westerhof of the Netherlands 1% behind.

The Women

This series was played in three sessions, and Nicola Smith of Great Britain went ahead from the very beginning. Véronique Bessis of France and Pyttsi Flodqvist of Sweden did well in the first and second sessions respectively, but at the end the British champion prevailed in style to win the event by no less than 4%!
The Netherlands win European Mixed Teams

The 3rd PHILIP MORRIS European Mixed Championships, held in Hotel Princesa Sofia, Barcelona, Spain, 22-27 March 1994, was a record success.

110 teams from 24 countries took part in the first tournament, the Mixed Teams, where the Dutch team of Marijke van der PAS won the gold medal, followed by Danish Judy NORRIS and the French combination of Hervé MOUIEL.

It was the first time that France did not win the European Mixed Teams title, although they qualified two teams to the semifinals. CHO-DOROWSKA of Poland won the Consolation Swiss.

The MIXED TEAMS started as a 12-round swiss tournament; at stake was one of the first four qualifying places.

France, the title holders and winners of the previous two events, started well, but was strongly challenged by Greece, Finland, Germany and Belgium.

The situation changed after the half-way mark, and, with four rounds to go, the top six contenders were all from different countries: Poland, Netherlands, Denmark, Belgium, Germany and France.

At the end of the swiss, van der Pas of the Netherlands qualified first, followed by Norris of Denmark, and two French teams: Mouiel and Lesguillier.

In the semifinals, van der Pas had no difficulty beating Lesguillier, 57-14, and advancing to the final, but the other match was close with Norris emerging as winners by a margin of 9 IMPs, 51-42.

Van der Pas’ top form was confirmed in the final, which was close only in the first half. The final score of 78-24 gave the Dutch (Marijke van der Pas, Kees Tammens, Anton Maas, Bep Vriend) a well-deserved European title.

| 1  | van der Pas | NTH | 11 | Lise | FRA | 255 |
| 2  | Norris      | DEN | 12 | Handley | GBR | 254 |
| 3  | Mouiel      | FRA | 13 | Corn | FRA | 254 |
| 4  | Lesguillier | FRA | 14 | Dussol | FRA | 252 |
| 5  | Chodorowska | POL | 15 | Koumetz | FRA | 250 |
| 6  | Vlahaki     | GRE | 16 | von Arnim | GER | 249 |
| 7  | Glazer      | FRA | 17 | Burgay | ITA | 249 |
| 8  | Foley       | GBR | 18 | Baxter | GBR | 245 |
| 9  | Serf        | FRA | 19 | Das | FRA | 245 |
| 10 | Polet       | BEL | 20 | Harasimovicz | POL | 243 |
| 21 | Velut       | FRA | 22 | van der Neut | NTH | 241 |
|    |             |     | 23 | Lalanne | FRA | 240 |
|    |             |     | 24 | Roussel | FRA | 240 |
|    |             |     | 25 | Kaplan | FRA | 239 |
|    |             |     | 26 | Gotard | GER | 239 |
|    |             |     | 27 | Toibin | IRE | 239 |
|    |             |     | 28 | Barry | IRE | 239 |
|    |             |     | 29 | Schaufelberger | FRA | 239 |
|    |             |     | 30 | Lara | POR | 239 |
|    |             |     | 31 | Delmouly | FRA | 238 |
|    |             |     | 32 | Pascual Soler | SPA | 237 |
Germany wins European Mixed Pairs

With 374 pairs from 29 countries taking part, the Mixed Pairs competition also surpassed any previous record of attendance. Amidst Europe’s finest players, Sabine ZENKEL and Georg NIPPNEN of Germany scored a clear victory, finishing well ahead of the field. The silver medal went to Andrea and Kurt FEICHTINGER of Austria, and the bronze to Daniele ALOUCHE-GAVIARD and Alain LEVY of France.

The Consolation tournament for the non-qualifiers gave the opportunity for a first-ever international distinction for Russia, thanks to PANINA-ROSENBLUM.

The Mixed Pairs was played in two stages: qualifying and final, with a consolation tournament provided for those failing to qualify.

From the very beginning, Odile Olivier and Frank Louchart of France led the race of the front runners, closely followed by Zenkel-Nippgen, and a number of other pairs further behind.

The Germans took the lead after the first session of the final, when Olivier-Louchart dropped to fifth place. Aben-Lormant and Gaviard-Levy of France, together with Colonna-Ligambi of Italy were placed in between.

The final session was a triumph for Austria’s Andrea and Kurt Feichtinger who came from behind to end up second, but Sabine Zenkel and Georg Nippgen were not to be caught. Improving their position, Daniele Alocuhe-Gaviard and Alain Levy of France finished third.

The 1994 PHILIP MORRIS European Mixed Championships was also a great organizational success, thanks both to the sponsor’s generous support and the great efforts of the PHILIP MORRIS Marketing Manager Pierre Balliger.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pair winners Sabine Zenkel and Georg Nippgen of Germany; below runners-up K. &amp; A. Feichtinger (Austria), and third-placed D. Gaviard-A. Levy (France)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

## MIXED PAIRS

### FINAL

| 1 | Zenkel-Nippgen | GER 59.78 |
| 2 | Feichtinger-Feichtinger | AUT 58.31 |
| 3 | Allouche-Levy | FRA 58.13 |
| 4 | Guillaumin-Guillaumin | FRA 57.79 |
| 5 | Riviere-Voldoire | FRA 57.46 |
| 6 | Aben-Lormant | FRA 57.33 |
| 7 | Colonna-Ligambi | ITA 56.85 |
| 8 | Terraneo-Terraneo | AUT 56.28 |
| 9 | Crozet-Crozet | FRA 55.97 |
| 10 | Poulain-Bo | FRA 55.83 |
| 11 | Nehmert-Marsal | GER 55.66 |
| 12 | Oldroyd-Davies | GBR 55.47 |
| 13 | Polet-Polet | BEL 55.23 |
| 14 | Lesguillier-Lesguillier | FRA 55.19 |
| 15 | Riberol-Pacault | FRA 54.98 |
| 16 | Babot-Graupera | SPA 54.97 |
| 17 | Sicard-Defranchi | FRA 54.46 |
| 18 | Ollivier-Louchart | FRA 54.36 |
| 19 | Vriend-Maas | NTH 54.33 |
| 20 | Nahmens-Adad | FRA 54.23 |
| 21 | von Arnim-Reps | GER 54.06 |

### CONSOLATION

| 1 | Panina-Rosenblum | RUS 57.37 |
| 2 | Eythorsdottir-Palsson | ICE 57.25 |
| 3 | Jorgne-Schweitzer | FRA 57.25 |
| 4 | Stawowy-Kirmse | GBR 56.97 |
| 5 | Sanders-McCarthy | GBR 56.61 |
| 6 | Forti-Forti | ITA 55.92 |
| 7 | Kass-Kass | FRA 55.86 |
| 8 | van Zwol-Berendregt | NTH 55.25 |
| 9 | Deleva-Cheprokov | BUL 55.17 |
| 10 | Almirall-Manimon | SPA 55.10 |
Tell me something, David, about the structure of the Israeli Federation and your role within it.

We have about 50 affiliated clubs with some 10,000 members. Of these 6,000 join the Federation individually to play in tournaments. The clubs elect delegates to an Electoral College which chooses a Council of 50, and an Executive Board of five. The Chairman is Meir Shani. The Federation has an office in Haifa with three employees.

I have been a member of the Israeli team for 15 years, but I also have three main administrative tasks: chairman of the Youth Committee, editor of the monthly Israeli bridge magazine which is sent free to every family with a member, and chairman of the annual Festival in Tel Aviv.

What is the history of the Israeli Federation?

It was originally formed in 1948, but on a small scale. It did not take up its current structure until the early ’60s. We have shown steady growth in membership since then, doubling in size in the last ten years.

What is Israel’s main achievements in international bridge?

We have a good record in Junior bridge. In 1972 I was in the team (another member was Shalom Seligman who has been my partner for the last 12 years), which finished second in the Junior Europeans. The Juniors did the same in 1990 to qualify for the World Junior Championship in Ann Arbor, USA, the following year where they took fifth place.

Israel has been invited as a guest team to the last three European Community Championships, and last year in Portugal our juniors won the gold medal.

In 1975, the Open team came second in the Europeans and third in the subsequent Bermuda Bowl. Ten years later Seligman and I were in the Israeli Open team which repeated both these results. At the last Olympiad in Salsomaggiore we won our Round Robin pool, and last year we won the European Community championships.

Our Women won the Community title in 1991, and have had several second places in major championships.

Tell me about the Annual Israeli Festival.

It is held in Tel Aviv in February. It started in 1966 and we now attract over a thousand players for 10 days. Last year we had over a hundred visitors from some 20 countries, and five different continents! Many of them are well-known names, and our Invitation Pairs in memory of Rixi Markus was very strong.

Over the 10 days there was $20,000 in cash prizes.

Does the Israeli Government support bridge?

Yes. The Minister of Education, Culture and Sport, who opened the Festival this year, has written to every school recommending bridge. A few schools now have bridge as a compulsory subject in the age group 11-13, and several more have included it as an optional subject. Bridge is recognized under the patronage of the Department of Sports, and receives a small grant from the Government in consequence. Card-playing is banned in the Israeli army, but bridge has special dispensation!

Thank you for your time.
The European Ladies Jamboree, organized by Anna Maria Torlonia-no and the EBL Ladies Committee in Capri, was an outstanding success. The wonderful surroundings and the excellent organization contributed to numerous requests for regular repetitions of this event.

The Jamboree champion was Marisa Jeitz, President of the Federation of Luxembourg.

European Bridge continues to expand at a satisfactory rate.

The latest figures, recently released by the EBL Treasurer, show that, over the past five years, EBL membership rose from 292,870 in 1989 to 335,832 members in 1994. This represents an increase of 14.67%, or an annual average of 2.93%, which although lower than in the 80s, still constitutes a satisfactory growth rate.

At the same time, the number of member countries went up quite dramatically: from 28 to 39! Nevertheless, the increase in the number of players did not come from the new member countries.

As shown by the table on the right (figures actually refer to the last day of the previous year), the registered players’ increase is mainly due to the further development of the game in the countries which have traditionally been leading the field.

Quite remarkably, the Netherlands, despite being Europe’s biggest Federation, still succeeded to increase their membership by nearly 50%. Portugal (43%), Greece (33%) and Switzerland (27%) are following.

Unfortunately, there are also Federations who lost members; most notably Poland, who dropped by 23%, and Hungary, who is now missing almost one third of its previous membership. However, in some countries, this is due to a different method of recording the members.

All in all, the figures prove that European bridge is indeed prospering. The main problem is not the total growth but the great imbalance which exist between the member countries in the development of the game. This is where efforts should be sharply focused.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>1989</th>
<th>1994</th>
<th>Dif. %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Austria</td>
<td>1,698</td>
<td>1,895</td>
<td>11.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Belarus</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>194</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Belgium</td>
<td>7,053</td>
<td>8,120</td>
<td>15.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Bulgaria</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>-37.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Croatia</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>366</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Czechoslovakia</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>603</td>
<td>-39.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Denmark</td>
<td>15,237</td>
<td>18,289</td>
<td>20.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Estonia</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>491</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Faroe Islands</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>290</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Finland</td>
<td>1,784</td>
<td>1,838</td>
<td>3.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 France</td>
<td>70,000</td>
<td>85,350</td>
<td>21.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Germany</td>
<td>17,085</td>
<td>22,064</td>
<td>29.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Great Britain</td>
<td>29,903</td>
<td>39,747</td>
<td>32.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Greece</td>
<td>1,366</td>
<td>1,817</td>
<td>33.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Hungary</td>
<td>1,486</td>
<td>1,010</td>
<td>-31.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Iceland</td>
<td>3,520</td>
<td>3,600</td>
<td>2.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Ireland</td>
<td>2,175</td>
<td>3,212</td>
<td>47.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Israel</td>
<td>5,411</td>
<td>5,896</td>
<td>8.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Italy</td>
<td>16,100</td>
<td>21,980</td>
<td>36.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Latvia</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 Lebanon</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>-33.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 Liechtenstein</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>105</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 Lithuania</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>139</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 Luxembourg</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>66.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 Monaco</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>8.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 Netherlands</td>
<td>66,446</td>
<td>92,553</td>
<td>39.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 Norway</td>
<td>16,102</td>
<td>14,870</td>
<td>-7.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 Poland</td>
<td>12,764</td>
<td>9,855</td>
<td>-22.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 Portugal</td>
<td>630</td>
<td>904</td>
<td>43.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 Romania</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>1,042</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 Russia</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>1,050</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32 San Marino</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>-23.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33 Slovenia</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>148</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34 Spain</td>
<td>2,852</td>
<td>3,368</td>
<td>18.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 Sweden</td>
<td>15,143</td>
<td>17,000</td>
<td>12.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36 Switzerland</td>
<td>2,540</td>
<td>3,215</td>
<td>26.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37 Turkey</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38 Ukraine</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>200</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39 Yugoslavia</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>--</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>292,870</td>
<td>335,832</td>
<td>14.67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Danny Roth of Great Britain feels that action must be taken to improve the situation in the bidding department. He summarises his views in four points:

a. It is crucial for the continued existence of the game that all players of all standards play to the same rules so that the test is of who has better card play and bidding judgment rather than who can come up with the most disruptive and incomprehensible bidding system. ‘No fear’ and ‘two-tier’ tournaments should never exist.

b. To avoid psyching, frivolous interference and the abuse of favourable vulnerability, the insolence penalty scale should be introduced at all levels of bridge and in all forms of scoring. If psyching bidding had been banned, the unhappy events of Buenos Aires in the 60s and the American trials a few years later would never have happened and the game as a whole would have a far better reputation and greater popularity. In any event, psyching can never be justified in long established partnerships who instinctively ‘know’ each other’s habits and mannerisms.

c. Players should be instructed to give far clearer definitions of conventional bids, including negative influences. Exchange of information by negative inference which is not clearly spelled out to opponents is by the Laws - and common sense, for that matter - cheating. Heavy procedural penalties should be imposed on offenders so that they make a special effort to be completely sporting on this point.

d. Bids with multiple meanings should be banned - particularly those which are ‘either weak or strong’. A conventional bid should give a clear indication of where the partnership is likely to play.

Jens Aucken of Denmark, Chairman of the EBL Systems Committee, replies:

a. At present, ‘disruptive’ and ‘incomprehensible’ bidding systems are only allowed at a very high and expert level, and only when the players involved have adequate time to prepare their defence (i.e. in long team matches). It is very common in all forms of sport and games that competition is more fierce and tough at the top, and quite frequently special rules require more expertise to compete at the very top. Bridge should not be an exception by denying experts the possibility of developing the game further under extremely demanding conditions. Only the biggest challenge usually brings the best out of human beings.

b. Mr Roth seems to state that psyching bidding and wild sacrifices at favourable vulnerability virtually guarantee a good result. This is far from reality. Saving at favourable vulnerability always gives up the opportunity of setting the contract - a bad proposition, in the long run. In comparison, when you psyche, you may not only fool your opponents but also your partner. This can easily lead to a ridiculous result, and it is one of the reasons why bridge players do in fact psyche very rarely. Of course, proper disclosure of a partnership’s habits must always be given, and there should be no ‘private’ understandings.

c. Here I tend to agree. However, great efforts have already been made to ensure more complete disclosure in the future (e.g. the new computerized WBF Convention Card). Deliberately withholding information from the opponents should clearly be heavily penalised.

d. It is far from obvious why a conventional bid should give a clear indication of where the partnership is likely to play. However, great efforts have already been made to ensure more complete disclosure in the future (e.g. the new computerized WBF Convention Card). Deliberately withholding information from the opponents should clearly be heavily penalised.

The real problem when defending against multi-meaning opening bids is very often that no take-out doubles or cue bids are available. This has already been realized and taken into consideration: multi-meaning bids at the two- or higher level which do not clearly relate to a specific suit are only allowed in long team matches (of at least 16 boards) when the opposition has adequate time to prepare their defence. The only exception is the Multi 2 opening which is very familiar to players all over the world.

Politicians to support bridge

Bernard Brighton of Great Britain sent a letter to Richard Caborn, Member of the British Parliament, seeking his support for the recognition of bridge as a sport by the British Government.

Mr Brighton enclosed a copy of the interview with Ib Lundby (EBL Review, issue 15) which shows that ‘... in Denmark, enough political pressure was found to persuade the Danish Sports Organisation to change its rules and create a new mindsports section which contains chess and bridge.

The Byelorussian Sports Council is no stranger to the game of chess, and bridge was recognised some three years ago. There are many countries throughout Europe that also recognise bridge.

Whilst many sports activities receive grants and support to help keep the players physically fit and active, it is our view that bridge helps to keep the mind active and, being just as important, should also be recognised. It is a great help in old age - even if (some would say) ‘it helps you to get there quickly’.

Perhaps there could be a place for bridge in the list of beneficiaries from the New National Lottery. Bridge organisations in Britain have, between them, far more members than Denmark where an annual grant of 2,000,000 Danish Kroner is now received.”

Bridge and smoking

William Konigsberger of Switzerland is in favour of introducing measures against smoking at bridge tournaments. Nicotine kills thousands of people every year, he says; not only the smokers suffer but also those who breathe the second-hand smoke.

Non-compulsory measures have not produced any result; the world of bridge must now act.
Convention Cards get computerized!

For years and years bridge players all over the world have spent endless hours trying to fill their Convention Cards in order to comply with tournament regulations for system disclosure. Now this tedious task becomes much easier thanks to the Convention Card Editor (CCE), a computer programme through which Convention Cards can be produced in a few minutes!

Eric Kokish, WBF Systems Administrator, gives the details:

The programme requires an IBM-compatible computer, 286 or higher running under DOS, with at least 640KB of RAM and a floppy drive that accepts 3.5" high density disks. To print your completed card, you will need access to a HP LaserJet III or IV printer - or any printer with such emulations.

The CCE will enable you to:

1. access and print the User’s Manual
2. complete the WBF card on your PC
3. save completion time by choosing from thousands of preselected entries to include in your customized Convention Card
4. avoid important omissions by providing on-line reminders and suggestions for inclusion in each section
5. start with a basic ‘template’ and edit/customize it to suit your particular requirements. For example, if you play a variation of Precision Club, you don’t start from scratch but from the Precision Club template which you bring on-line and make your additions or corrections, thus saving hours of basic input time
6. retain different versions of your card that can be altered easily when you want to make changes
7. file your Convention Card electronically and generate copies through your PC/printer configuration
8. exchange on-line versions of convention cards with other players that can be downloaded or easily edited
9. access WBF System Policy on-line or in a text file
10. access the WBF Guide to Completion/Conventions Booklet on-line or in a text file
11. join the information highway in fine style

The programme, written by Avery Pelag of Israel and acquired by the World Bridge Federation, will be available to all NCBOs in August.

It is provided free of charge as a service to bridge players worldwide. NCBOs are encouraged to make any number of programme copies and distribute them freely to all interested players.

The use of the CCE for the Albuquerque NEC World Championships in September is optional, but strongly encouraged. If you have any difficulties, you will be able to get plenty of help and advice in using the programme at the tournament site, so please obtain a copy of the programme from your Federation and try it out before you get to Albuquerque.

The use of the CCE will be mandatory in the future, and players will be requested to submit their Cards on file and disk rather than in hard copies.

This is the first official version of the CCE and we expect to make improvements as we go along. We invite you to ask questions, offer suggestions or criticisms, and to do anything you can think that might help us develop and circulate the programme in the future.

We hope you will enjoy using the CCE.
Players from 16 countries and 5 continents took part in the 28th Israeli International Bridge Festival, held at the Israel Convention Centre in Tel Aviv, 10-19 February.

Two of the most famous players of all time, Pietro Forquet and Giorgio Belladonna of the Italian Blue Team headed the list. Other world champions present were Kathie Wei-Sender and Carol Sanders of USA and Krzysztof Martens and Andrej Wilkosz of Poland. Other top names included David and Lisa Berkowitz (USA), Jan Fucik (Austria), Sven-Ake Bjerggard and Anders Morath (Sweden), Martin Hoffman (Great Britain), Nevena Deleva (Bulgaria) and Jerzy Russyan and Jerzy Zaremba (Poland). A contingent of 20 players came from China, and the Chinese ambassador honoured the Festival with his presence.

The trophies for most successful players over the whole festival were won by Nissan Rand of the host country (open) and Carol Sanders of USA (women). The Festival grows bigger and better every time. This year, a new record of attendance was set with a total of some 2,700 tables.

The 8th Cap Volmac World Top Tournament, held in The Hague’s Hotel des Indes, The Netherlands, 20-23 January 1994, was a triumph for the youth who scored a clear victory over experience.

Helgemo-Helness of Norway, topped the list of 16 world class invited pairs. Helness was European Junior champion in 1980, and Helgemo is just 24. Runners-up were Meckstroth-Rodwell of USA, while Levy-Mouiel of France finished third, ahead of Forrester-Robson (Great Britain), Chemla-Perron (France), Leufkens-Westra (Netherlands), Hamman-Wolf (USA), and other well known pairs.

The Director and members of ACBL District 1, in Montreal, Canada, are very excited that José Damiani has accepted an invitation to be the guest of honour at their Regional Tournament which is to be held in Quebec City, immediately after the Albuquerque 1994 NEC World Championships. The tournament will be held 6-10 October, and the programme includes Open and Women’s Swiss Teams, Open Pairs, Women’s Pairs, Bracketed Knockout Teams, Board-A-Match Teams, Stratified Pairs, Non-Life Master Pairs, and a variety of other competitions. The tournament headquarters will be at the Quebec Hilton. Less expensive accommodations (around C$ 50-60) are also available nearby.

For further information and entries, please contact George Retek, 1650 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W, Montreal, PQ H3H 2P3, Canada. ☎ 1-514-937 9907. ☎ 1-514-931 2205.

Defensive Skills for You by Andrew Kambiles

Many bridge players spend long hours examining systems and conventions aimed at improving their bidding. Similarly, considerable efforts are devoted to the intricacies of declarer play. How about the defence in which you spend most of your time at the table? This book by a leading teacher explains what it takes to become a better defender. Published by VICTOR GOLLANCZ (144 pages, hardback, £11.99).

The Extra Edge in Play by Terence Reese & Julian Pottage

A wonderful collection of problems and their solutions which, as the title indicates, go beyond the ordinary. For those who are good players and wish to become better. Published by VICTOR GOLLANCZ (108 pages, paperback, £6.99).

Odds for Practical Players by Hugh Keelsey & Michael Glauert

This is a comprehensive summary of bridge odds and their application, appropriately written by a world-class bridge analyst and a proficient tournament player who is also Professor of Mathematics. Not only for Math students. Published by VICTOR GOLLANCZ (125 pages, paperback, £8.99).

Jeff Easterson of Germany, who was one of the instructors at the 1993 EBL Tournament Directors’ course, held in Amsterdam, reports on further activities in the direction of improving tournament quality:

After the Amsterdam seminar, we tried to analyze the results, problems, etc. Some countries seemed to have great problems with such seminars. The Eastern European countries were rather at a disadvantage, due to their long isolation from international bridge and financial problems (the purchase of literature is especially difficult); and there were a number of countries, which seemed to face extraordinary problems with the language (working in English) and the form of the seminars (solving problems at a table in front of other directors). As a result, we tried to offer weekend seminars to countries which might be interested, in which we more or less simulated the work done at the EBL seminars.

We held one in Germany last year, which was a great success. There were about 20 participants, the level of knowledge was good and there was much enthusiasm. Italy is also acting on the idea.

Last January we held such a seminar in Budapest, immediately before the annual bridge Congress. Andras Broc was to be involved originally, but when he was forced to cancel for professional reasons, Grattan Endicott was kind enough to step in.

We had about 15 participants from some 8 countries, including Austria, Belarus, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Romania.

We were pleasantly surprised to see that the standard was extremely high. All of the participants, but two, had a very good command of English - and all of them passed the examination, as we feel they would have done in the EBL seminar.

Theory was followed by practice: as soon as the seminar ended, the Congress started and at least one of the participants was invited to join the Tournament Directors’ team.
Every year the EBL produces and distributes free of charge a booklet containing details of local, national and international tournaments scheduled to take place in Europe.

If you wish to have your tournament included in the Calendar, please provide the Editor of EBL Review with the following information:

1. Date of start and finish, 2. Title of the event, 3. Venue, 4. Typical accommodation cost (double room per night), 5. Main tournaments and number of sessions, 6. Average entry fee per player and session, 7. Prizes, 8. Contact address for information and entries.

The deadline for the 1995 edition of the Calendar is 31 October 1994.