



FRANCE WINS BERMUDA BOWL

- USA GETS SILVER MEDAL
- NORWAY TAKES BRONZE

Putting up an excellent performance and after a well-fought final against formidable opponents, **FRANCE** conquered the prestigious *Bermuda Bowl*, symbol of worldwide supremacy at bridge.

FRANCE entered the Open World Championship race as Europe's fifth qualifier but was only surpassed by the two USA teams at the end of the round robin. In the knockout stages, **FRANCE** beat **POLAND** and **NORWAY**, before facing **USA** in the final. Their victory over the American defending champions brought the *Bermuda Bowl* back to Europe after four years and



to France for the second time ever, since their first victory in 1956! At the same time, **NORWAY** beat the other American team to win the bronze medal.

The 1997 World Championships were very well organized in Hammamet, Tunisia, October 19-November 1. Apart from many Tunisian officials, the Championships were visited by IOC Vice President **Marc Hodler** and **Omar Sharif**.

NO MEDALS FOR EUROPE!

VENICE CUP RETURNS TO USA

USA won the Women's World Zonal Championship and recaptured the *Venice Cup* which they had lost in 1995. The silver medal went to **CHINA**, and the bronze also to **USA**! Europe won no medals at all! **GERMANY**, the defending champions did not make it to the quarterfinals, while **FRANCE** ended fourth.



Captain Kirsten Møller of the Danish Junior Team celebrates victory in Hamilton, Canada.

DENMARK WINS WORLD JUNIOR TEAMS

DENMARK won the *6th World Junior Teams Championship* held in Hamilton, Canada, 4-13 August, and captured the *Ortiz-Patiño Trophy*, beating **NORWAY** in the final and **RUSSIA** in the semifinal.

Despite **CANADA**'s good performance, the tournament was an all-European affair with our zone winning all medals.

(see *EBL Junior Review*)

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The second half of 1997 was marked by important competition results scored by European players.

After qualifying last in Montecatini, FRANCE showed her tremendous potential when they managed to end up ahead of what was probably the strongest field ever to contest a *Bermuda Bowl*. The young NORWEGIAN team completed the European triumph, winning the bronze medal.

In Hamilton, Canada, the European Juniors showed no mercy winning all medals at the World Championship! DENMARK'S victory was long overdue, while NORWAY has become a sort of 'inevitable' medalist in youth tournaments. The newcomer is RUSSIA who has a lot more to show in the future.

Jumping to another subject, we are celebrating our 10th birthday here in *EBL Review* - and we are naturally very happy and proud for this.

It seems that it was only yesterday when the first issue went to press. A whole decade has passed since, and the 21 issues of our medium are a mirror of the great development achieved by European bridge.

EBL Review was designed to be the League's direct contact with the ordinary club player - and also the League's showcase to the outside world.

We believe we have succeeded in both these objectives. And, with your support, we shall continue serving them.

Paulo Gerardo

EBL Review: 10 years

EBL Review, the official medium of the *European Bridge League* is coming of age, as it is celebrating its 10th anniversary!

The first issue of what was then called *EBL News* appeared exactly a decade ago, dated *January-March 1988*. Its objective was - and still is - to provide a means of communication between the League and the European players of any level.

The EBL works closely with the National Federations and has various suitable means of communicating with them. What was missing was a direct link to the players of the local clubs.

EBL Review was the vision of our former President **José Damiani**. As a top Public Relations man, he also saw the need of a window to the outside world,



and its benefits to the promotion of the game.

Originally, *EBL Review* became possible thanks to the support of **PHILIP MORRIS**, who undertook the printing and contributed to the artwork. They set the guidelines which *EBL Review* still follows today.

Duplicate Bridge Laws revised

The 1997 edition of the *International Code Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge* has been completed. It was approved by the EBL last June in Montecatini, and promulgated by the WBF in Hammamet, in October.

This is the eighth edition since the introduction of the Laws in 1928. It supersedes the 1987 and all previous editions, but the changes it introduces are not as radical as before.

There are two general changes in the new Laws. Until now, when a player had committed an infraction and paid the prescribed penalty, he could use legitimately any information he had gained through the infraction. This is no longer true.

Despite the penalty, the information remains 'unauthorized' and may not be used by the offending pair. The non-offending pair could, under the 1987 Laws, and still can use such information.

The second change generalizes a concept which already existed in some parts of the old Law. When a player who caused an infraction, could have known, at the time of the infraction, that he might gain by causing it, he is not allowed to benefit from such advantage.

There are also a number of technical changes and improvements which make the new Laws fairer and easier to apply.

Portable Bridge Notation

With the advent of bridge computer games, the issue of *portable bridge notation* (PBN) has come up, as it is desirable to be able to use bridge deals in various computer platforms and programmes. **Tis Veugen** and **Kaj**

Backas have been working on *PBN*. People interested in the project are referred to their Internet web pages at:

<http://www.IAEhv.nl/users/veugent>
<http://www.compart.fi/~KGB>

EUROPEAN MIXED CHAMPIONSHIPS

AACHEN, GERMANY
28 MARCH - 3 APRIL 1998

• PROGRAMME

Mixed Pairs

Saturday 28 March

11.00 Registration
15.15 Qualifier, session 1
20.15 Qualifier, session 2

Sunday 29 March

12.30 Qualifier, session 3
20.30 Final/Consolation,
session 1

Monday 30 March

12.30 Final/Consolation,
session 2
18.00 Prize-giving

Mixed Teams

Tuesday 31 March

11.00 Registration
15.00 Session 1 (3 matches)
21.30 Session 2 (1 match)

Wednesday 1 April

13.30 Session 3 (3 matches)
20.00 Session 4 (2 matches)

Thursday 2 April

13.30 Session 5 (3 matches)
18.45 Session 6 (1 match)
19.30 Semi finals (32 boards)

Friday 3 April

10.30 Final & Playoff (1-16)
13.30 Final & Playoff (17-32)
13.30 Session 7 (2 matches)
17.00 Closing Ceremony

• ENTRY FEES

SF 250 per pair

SF 800 per team

• PRIZE MONEY

SF 5,000 to the first pair
SF 24,000 total

SF 10,000 to the first team
SF 30,500 total

• REGISTRATION

Must be made exclusively
through the National
Federations before
8 February 1998 to:

Bill Pencharz
8 Bell Yard
London WC2A 2JU
Great Britain

☎ 44-171-242 3001
☎ 44-171-242 3002

• VENUE & HOTELS

The Championships will be
held at the **Eurogress**, a
modern congress centre
with magnificent playing
conditions, conveniently
situated in a beautiful park,
near to the heart of this
green city.

Catering facilities are
available on site, as well as
at a wide selection of
nearby restaurants.

Hotel rates

DM 70-195 (single)
DM 80-220 (double)

incl. breakfast, tax & service

Information & reservations

Mrs Petra Thelen
Verkehrsverein Bad Aachen
Postfach 2007
D-52022 Aachen
Germany.

☎ 49-241-180 2951
☎ 49-241-180 2930

• FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information can be
obtained from the local
bridge organizer:

Mrs Anneliese Schmidt-Bott
Deutscher Bridge-Verband

☎ 49-241-17 18 48
☎ 49-241-17 18 48



The end of the year is a good time for me to review the successes of European Teams during 1997. It has been a good year; a very good year.

In August, at Hamilton Canada, Europe collected a clean sweep of medals in the **6th World Junior Team Championship**. After winning the Round Robin stage in comfort, *Russia* lost narrowly in the semifinal to the eventual winners and had to settle for third place and the bronze medal. The silver medal went to the Juniors of *Norway*. And pride

of place, first position and the gold medal went to *Denmark*. My warmest congratulations go to the *Danish* Team of **Fred Brøndum, Mik Kristensen, Lars Lund Madsen, Morten Lund Madsen, Mikkel Nøhr, Jacob Røn**, their coach **Nicolai Kampmann** and their npc **Kirsten Steen Møller**.

The clean sweep in Hamilton was a great credit to the three teams. It was also an indication of the dominance Europe has in Junior Bridge. This is no accident. Rather, it is the result of over twenty five years of dedicated work in the encour-

agement and promotion of Junior Bridge by the Federations and the *EBL Youth Committee*.

The last Edition of *EBL Review* celebrated the victories of the *Italian* Open Team and the *Great British* Ladies Team in the **43rd GENERALI European Bridge Championship**. As well as being a great tournament in its own right, the

ver medal of their Junior Team, this represents great strength in depth of the *Norwegian Federation* and I believe that they can look forward to many future International successes.

The final of the *Bermuda Bowl* was a clash of Titans between the holders, the enormously experienced and powerful team from the USA, and France. The story of the final

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

European Championship is the qualification for the World Championships (*Bermuda Bowl* and *Venice Cup*).

At the end of October ten European teams went to Hammamet, Tunisia to participate in the **1997 World Championships**. In the *Bermuda Bowl* the Teams were Italy, Poland, Norway, Denmark and France (who had only qualified ahead of the Netherlands after a desperate last round struggle). In the *Venice Cup* the European representation was Great Britain, France, The Netherlands, Germany and Italy.

The *Venice Cup* was won by USA1, with China second and USA2 third. European honour was saved by the *French* Ladies Team who came fourth.

In the *Bermuda Bowl* the young *Norwegian* Team of **Boye Brogeland, Erik Sælensminde, Geir Helgemo, Tor Helness, Glenn Grøtheim, Terje Å** and their npc **Asbjorn Brenne Einar** won the bronze medal. When added to the sil-

will be told elsewhere in this edition of *EBL Review*. For me it is sufficient to express the great pleasure and pride we all have in the victory of the *French* Team of **Paul Chemla, Alain Levy, Christian Mari, Hervé Mouiel, Frank Multon** and **Michel Perron**, captained with sagacity and style by **Jean-Louis Stoppa**. And I cannot resist mentioning that when **Jean-Louis Stoppa** was having teething troubles with his team earlier in the year, I wished him luck and said that he was a 'hero of the French Republic' to take on the task of Captaincy. He dismissed the accolade at the time, but hero he is, and heroes are his team. *Bravo* and well done!

That just leaves me to wish all European Bridge players and their families a very happy and prosperous 1998. Have a good game.

Bill Pencharz

MARI interview

(continued from page 5)

French team partnering **Michel Lebel** again, as I had done 23 years earlier. We came second in the Vilamoura Europeans and France went to Beijing, but it was not a happy team, and I decided to stay at home. The next year I partnered **Marc Bompis** in the Rhodes Olym-

piad and France won. It had been 16 years since our win in Valkenburg. Now I am partnering **Alain Levy**.

If you had a magic wand, what would you change about bridge?

I hate smoking - I gave it up myself four years ago! I dislike slow play. I would like the score for 3♠ making to be more than

2♠+1, as we always seem to be in the higher contract!

What about other activities?

I have had to give up tennis, but I am now learning golf. I enjoy reading about European history, and like classical music, and go to the opera in Paris. I also enjoy good food and wine, but who lives in Paris and does not?

What advice do you have for ordinary players?

Keep your bridge simple, with few conventions, and natural methods, using your intelligence all the time. France has won many world titles following this recipe. We use few conventions, and I believe, would do better with even less!

INTERVIEW WITH



by Patrick Jourdain

CHRISTIAN MARI

Christian, please start by telling us something about your family life.

My father lived in Corsica and fought in the war. When France was defeated, he fought for the Resistance for four years in the forests just outside Paris. There he met my mother, a school teacher. My brother was born in 1940 and I was born in 1945.

What was your school life?

We stayed just south of Paris until I was 12 years old when the family moved into Paris. I played my first bridge there at the age of 17, but only a little. I was much keener on football, and then tennis which I played to a good standard. I was a successful student and won the *Concours* to the High School where I studied as a Telecommunications Engineer. I finished my diploma when I was 23 and then had a year in military service. I was a sub-lieutenant, and

this was the only time in my life when I had a regular wage!

What happened after you left the military?

I returned to Paris in 1970 and started playing bridge at the *Bridge Club de Paris*. Two years later **Michel Lebel** and I entered and won the French Trials. We went to the Europeans in *Ostend* where France took the silver medal. Next year in *Herzlia*, Israel, we went one better, taking gold. We went to the 1974 *Bermuda Bowl* in Bermuda itself and came third. But then there was a gap of four years before I played again for France.

What was your family situation?

In 1978 my girl friend, **Dominique Frenove**, and I set up house together, and we are still together now, twenty years later. We have no children, but two large and very beautiful dogs; we love them both very much.

How did your bridge career restart?

I began a partnership in 1976 with **Michel Perron** and in 1978 we played in the *Rosenblum* in New Orleans finishing third. In those days, the *Albarra Bridge Club* in Paris organised a duplicate match every day for a top group of players: *Perron, Chemla, Lebel, Szwarc, Boulenger* and myself, where we drew for partners and played for small stakes. We all had to play the same system and that experience has been the basis of many French national teams over the following 20 years where we are happy to change partners and know we can pick up a system with little problem.

In the 1980 Olympiad I partnered **Chemla**, and we won the famous final with the hand where I raised to 7♦ and **Hamman** led the wrong ace. The next year I partnered **Perron** at the Europeans in Birmingham where we finished third. Only two

- 1945: Born near Paris
- 1972: European Teams silver medal
- 1973: European Teams Champion
- 1974: *Bermuda Bowl* bronze medal
- 1980: Olympiad Champion
- 1981: European Teams bronze medal
- 1989: European Teams silver medal
- 1995: European Teams silver medal
- 1996: Olympiad Champion
- 1997: *Bermuda Bowl* Champion

teams qualified for the *Bermuda Bowl*, so we stayed at home.

There was then a long gap in your career. What happened?

I played money bridge for high stakes almost exclusively for three years, and then had ten years partnering a sponsor. I had one trip with **Jean-Christophe Quantin** in 1989 to Turku where we were second, and this took France to Perth, but we didn't make it through the Round Robin. It was not until 1995 I came back into the

(continued on page 4)



The new World Ladies Champions, USA: Randi Montin, Tobi Sokolow, Mildred Breed, Jill Meyers, Lisa Berkowitz, Marinessa Letizia and npc Sue Picus

USA TAKES LADIES' TITLE TO NORTH AMERICA

The Tunisian resort of Hammamet was the setting for the **1997 World Bridge Championships**. To the traditional contests in the Open and Women's series was added a new event, the **Transnational Teams**.

The local organisers can be proud of their contribution to the success of the tournament, the first major champi-

onships to be staged in an Arabic country.

The players, administrators and members of the Press were able to enjoy the beautiful surroundings and superb facilities which combined to produce an outstanding event.

The computer equipment available at the Championships reached new levels of excellence, and *Information*

Technology Manager **Mark Newton**, with the help of *Results Chief* **Claude Dadoun**, ensured that hands were available for both the *Daily Bulletin* and the Press Room just moments after each session of play had finished.

Bridge players all around the world were able to follow the Championships on the *Internet*. The *WBF Internet Officer*, **Panos Gerontopoulos** ensured that the WBF website at www.bridge.gr made the daily bulletins available as soon as they were finalised in the early hours of the morning, well before they were printed and distributed in Hammamet.

Vugraph matches could be watched on line at the *Bridge Plaza* website at www.bridge-plaza.com. Both sites were regularly visited by thousands of people each day.

There were many outstanding moments during the course of the event, both at and away from the table.

The World renowned actor and player, **Omar Sharif**, was a special guest at the Championships, competing in the new Transnational event, and finding time to join the commentary team on Vugraph.

Switzerland's **Mark Hodler**, awaiting re-election as first

vice-president of the *International Olympic Committee*, visited the Championships for a couple of days whilst on route to Japan, where plans for the *1998 Winter Olympics* were to be finalised. He had high hopes that the *IOC's* soon to be announced definition of 'sport' would enable bridge to move forward in its drive to be included in the *Winter Olympics*.

The field assembled for the **Bermuda Bowl** was considered by many to be the strongest ever. The holders, in the guise of *USA 2*, faced a formidable challenge, not only from their fellow countrymen, *USA 1*, but also from the powerful European nations, *Italy*, *Poland*, *Norway*, *Denmark* and mercurial *France*. South America's challenge was led by mighty *Brazil*, whilst much was expected of the ever improving *China*. However, only eight teams could advance from the Round Robin to contest the knockout stages, and in an exciting finish, *Denmark* and *Brazil* fell by the wayside, the final qualifying place being captured by *Chinese Taipei*.

All the quarter finals were hard fought. *USA 1* trailed *China* by 29 IMPs after 64 boards but staged a strong rally to win

VENICE CUP

FINAL		
USA 1	-	CHINA 249 - 184
3RD PLACE PLAYOFF		
USA 2	-	FRANCE 114 - 66
SEMI FINALS		
CHINA	-	FRANCE 241 - 220
USA 1	-	USA 2 173 - 168
QUARTER FINALS		
FRANCE	-	NETHERLANDS 253 - 133
USA 1	-	ITALY 214 - 190
USA 2	-	CANADA 164 - 162
CHINA	-	GREAT BRITAIN 231 - 157

QUALIFIER			
1	FRANCE	298	10 INDIA 254
2	USA 1	291.5	11 AUSTRALIA 254
3	USA 2	289	12 NEW ZEALAND 253
4	CHINA	288	13 ARGENTINA 238
5	GREAT BRITAIN	287	14 SOUTH AFRICA 224
6	CANADA	283	15 CHINESE TAIPEI 217
7	NETHERLANDS	272	16 COLOMBIA 206
8	ITALY	259	17 BRAZIL 205
9	GERMANY	257	18 TUNISIA 169

FRANCE RETURNS OPEN TITLE TO EUROPE

going away, 241-191. *USA 2* eased past *Chinese Taipei* 213-179 while *France* started slowly against Poland but prevailed 220-198. The recovery of the event came from *Norway*. They trailed Italy 74-134 at the half way mark, but came back to win 229-217.

The conditions of contest meant that teams from the same country had to meet in the semi finals. *USA 2* demonstrated they would not give up their title easily by powering past *USA 1* 276-157, whilst *France* proved to be too strong for *Norway*, winning 220-157.

The final saw the lead change hands more than once, but *France* always looked the stronger side and they eventually opened up a significant lead. *USA 2* fought hard but could not get back on level terms, *France* going on to record their second win in the competition, after an interval of 41 years, by 328-301. *France* added the *Bermuda Bowl* to the Olympiad title they won in Rhodes in 1996.

USA 2 had to be content with the silver medals this time, whilst *Norway* won the bronze medal playoff against *USA 1*.

Worries over security caused the *Israeli* Government to withhold permission for its Women's team to compete in the *Venice Cup* and their place was taken by *Italy*.

The contest for the *Venice Cup* was no less exciting than the one for the *Bermuda Bowl*. The surprise of the Round Robin was the failure of the holders, *Germany*, to progress to the knockout stages. In the quarter finals, *France* swept past *The Netherlands*, 253-133, whilst *China* outscored *Great Britain* 231-157, win-



The new World Open Champions, FRANCE: npc Jean-Louis Stoppa, Hervé Mouiel, Michel Perron, Christian Mari, Frank Multon, Paul Chemla, Alain Levy

ning one 16 board set 75-0! *USA 1* won a hard fought contest against Italy, 214-190, but the most exciting match saw *USA 2* recover from a deficit of 51 IMPs with only 32 boards remaining to overcome *Canada* 164-162.

In the semi finals *China* built up a big lead against *France* and held on to enough of it to win 241-220. The match between the two American teams was full of drama. *USA 2* established an early lead, but *USA 1* fought back well. The issue was still in doubt going into the last board, but the final score was *USA 1* 173, *USA 2* 168.

China led after 48 boards of the final, but *USA 1* took control in the middle part of the match and repulsed all their opponents efforts to secure victory by 249-184. A second successive silver for *China*, following on from the Rhodes Olympiad, while the third place match saw *USA 2* overcome *France*.

The *Transnational Teams* was captured by Italy's **Leandro Burgay, Franco Mariani & Dano de Falco**, with Poland's **Marcin Lesniewski**. They sparkled in the final, defeating **Krzysztof Jassem's** all Polish team 132-40.

Mark Horton



Bronze medalists, NORWAY: Erik Saelensminde, Tor Helness, Terje Å, Geir Helgemo, Glenn Grøtheim, Boye Brogeland, npc Asbjon Brenne Einar

FINAL			
FRANCE	-	USA 2	328 - 301
3RD PLACE PLAYOFF			
NORWAY	-	USA 1	97 - 67
SEMI FINALS			
USA 2	-	USA 1	276 - 157
NORWAY	-	FRANCE	157 - 220
QUARTER FINALS			
USA 1	-	CHINA	241 - 191
USA 2	-	CHINESE TAIPEI	213 - 179
FRANCE	-	POLAND	225 - 193
NORWAY	-	ITALY	229 - 217
QUALIFIER			
1	USA 1	323	10 DENMARK 264
2	USA 2	315.4	11 AUSTRALIA 256
3	FRANCE	296	12 CANADA 233
4	NORWAY	294	13 INDIA 226
5	ITALY	290.1	14 VENEZUELA 223
6	POLAND	285	15 NEW ZEALAND 205
7	CHINA	278	16 CHILE 189
8	CHINESE TAIPEI	277	17 SOUTH AFRICA 174
9	BRAZIL	274	18 TUNISIA 154

BERMUDA BOWL

Bridge faces a unique problem in Germany because of the existence of competition from other widely-played card games. Please explain this.

We have two other very popular card-games in Germany, *Skat* and *Doppelkopf*. They are both easy to learn, and have been popular for more than a century. The German *Skat* Federation has more than 100,000 members compared with our 26,000, and *skat* columns appear in several newspapers.

How did the merger between East and West Germany affect the Federation?

Our combined population is now about 78 million people, but from the former East Germany we have only four bridge clubs with about 50 members.

Tell us about the structure of the Federation.

We do not identify our members individually (though we plan to change this), dealing only with the bridge clubs. We have just over four hundred clubs affiliated, but new clubs are starting up all the time. The clubs are grouped into about 13 regions.

We have a Board which is elected every two years by the club representatives. We have a small office in Herford, but no full-time employee. **Detlev Piekenbrock** works part-time in charge of administration. We have a monthly magazine which goes to the bridge clubs.

For such a small Federation your players, particularly the women, have a wonderful record in international bridge.

Yes. Until November, our women were the reigning *Venice Cup* champions, and **Sabine Auken** & **Daniela von Arnim** are also European Ladies Pairs champions for the second time. **Georg Nippgen** & Sabine were European Mixed Pairs Champions in Barcelona.

Our Juniors won the world title in 1993 and **Roland Rohowsky** was already an Open World Champion as a member of the German team which won the *Rosenblum* in Geneva in 1990.

What are your plans for the future?

We are hosting the **European Mixed Championships** in Aachen in March. We have an excellent venue in the *Eurogress*, a splendid building with high ceilings, set in a beautiful park. We are expecting a record attendance of players from all over Europe.

In the Federation our major task is to change the image of bridge in Germany to something younger and more sporting and we have invested 250,000 marks in bringing bridge to the attention of the public.

Very few play bridge in school, but that we hope to change.

What about yourself?

I was elected President in March 1996, after two years as the Board Director for Public Relations.

Interview with the President of the German Bridge Federation by Patrick Jourdain



ERNST-OTTO RENTH

I live in Kiel, near Hamburg, and I am a Medicinal Chemist working in Pharmaceutical Research for a big company. I am married with two grown-up children. My main hobby outside bridge is tennis, which I play regularly, in my Club Senior Team. At bridge I am no more than a good club player.

Thank you, Ernst for your time.

We look forward to seeing you in Aachen in March.



LADIES



Anna Maria Torlontano
Ladies Committee Chairman

1998 EUROPEAN LADIES BRIDGE JAMBOREE

26-31 May 1998

Hotel Budapest,
Budapest, Hungary

The EBL Ladies Committee has enlisted the support and co-operation of the Hungarian Bridge Federation to organize another Ladies Jamboree in Budapest!

The very first Ladies Jamboree was held there, and was a great success, with some 300 ladies from all over Europe playing and enjoying the event.

Bridge and Fun

The emphasis is as much on enjoyment as on bridge, and there is a wonderful programme planned for the participants, which includes a trip to Vienna on the Silver Train, with a chance to go sightseeing in Vienna itself, that most romantic of cities. Of course Budapest is a fascinating city as well, and a special sightseeing tour has been arranged, in addition to which there are two free mornings during which time you can go shopping or do some more sight seeing as your mood takes you.

Programme

The provisional programme is as follows:

On your arrival on **Tuesday 26 May** you will be asked to register for the Jamboree and will be invited to join us for a welcome drink at the Hotel Budapest.

Your special **sightseeing** tour of Budapest has been arranged for the morning of **Wednesday 27 May** and then in the afternoon there will be the first session of bridge - a single session **individual tournament** during which you will have the chance to meet, and play bridge with, many of the other participants.

On **Thursday 28 May** morning we have arranged the **trip to Vienna** by the Silver Train which is similar to the Orient

Express; lunch will be served on the train and there will be the opportunity to do some sightseeing in Vienna. We are planning to play rubber bridge in the train on the way back to Budapest.

The **Friday 29 May** morning is free, so you can do exactly as you please - just relax and maybe play some rubber bridge in the hotel, or have a look round the shops, maybe return to some of the areas you saw during your sightseeing trip on Tuesday, or explore some other part of Budapest. The afternoon is for the first session of the **pairs tournament**, and the second session will be played in the evening.

Saturday 30 May morning is also free, and the third session of the pairs tournament will be played in the afternoon. The evening is set aside for the prize-giving ceremony and the **Victory Banquet**, when we can congratulate the winners and relax.

Finally we will say goodbye to you as you depart after breakfast on **Sunday 31 May**.

Accommodation

There are special packages being arranged at the Hotel Budapest and at other hotels in the locality.

Please contact your NCBO for further details, or write to:

Anna Gudge
The Old Railway Station
Long Melford
Sudbury
Suffolk CO10 9HN
Great Britain

☎: 44-1787-881 920
☎: 44-1787-881 339
✉: anna@ecats.co.uk

NEW BOOKS

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by Géza Ottlik & Hugh Kelsey

This is a classic book on declarer play, first published in 1979 and now in its fifth impression.

How should you have played? The book provides the answers in a spectacular way. A must, even if you will not necessarily recognize yourself in the driver's seat.

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KILLING DEFENCE AT BRIDGE

by Hugh Kelsey

As with all books by Kelsey, in this defence primer, which first appeared in 1966, the reader is amazed by the power of mind at bridge. Whether you can match this performance at the table or not, this book should not be missing from anyone's library.

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Two famous writers combined forces to produce an instructional book on a difficult department of bridge: the first step to a successful - or not - defence. 21 chapters of theory and examples are followed by a 50-question quiz.

Published by V GOLLANCZ (paperback, 160 pages, £9.99)

MASTER POINTS

• A European ranking list recently came into effect. This list is maintained based on **Rating Points**, i.e. Master Points won over the last four years, but with different weights. In the lists for the 1996-97 season published here, the ranking is according to the total of all the points won in 1996-97, 75% of the points won in 1995-96, 50% of the points won in 1994-95 and 25% of the points won in 1993-94.

• **Paul Maris** of the Netherlands is the EBL Master Points Secretary. NCBOs are encouraged to contact him for any matter regarding Master Points.



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RATING POINTS / WOMEN

1	Sabine AUKEN	291.75	GER
2	Daniela von ARNIM	250.75	GER
3	Bep VRIEND	205.25	NLD
4	Beate NEHMERT	187.50	GER
5	Catherine SAUL	185.75	FRA
6	Véronique BESSIS	181.75	FRA
7	Andrea RAUSCHEID	179.25	GER
8	Marijke van der PAS	138.25	NLD
9	Sylvie WILLARD	133.50	FRA
10	Migri TZUR-ALBU	132	ISR
11	Ruth LEVIT-PORAT	127.75	ISR
12	Bénédicte CRONIER	123.75	FRA
13	Karin CAESAR	107.75	GER
14	Heather DHONDY	99.50	GBR
15	Claude BLOUQUIT	96.25	FRA
16	Elizabeth McGOWAN	94.50	GBR
17	Doris FISCHER	91.25	AUT
18	Maria ERHART	88	AUT
19	Marianne MÖGEL	87.75	GER
20	Nicola SMITH	86	GBR
21	Gabriele BAMBERGER	84.75	AUT
22	Pat DAVIES	81.50	GBR
23	Cristina GOLIN	74.25	ITA
24	Valérie POLET	73.75	BEL
25	Dorthe SCHALTZ	73	DEN
—	Jet PASMANN	73	NLD
—	Anneke SIMONS	73	NLD
28	Gabriella OLIVIERI	72	ITA
29	Daniela BIRMAN	69.25	ISR
30	Jolanta KROGULSKA	67.75	POL
31	Matilda POPLILOV	66.25	ISR
32	Colette LISE	66	FRA
33	Nadine COHEN	65.25	FRA
—	Larissa PANINA	65.25	RUS
35	Terry WEIGKRICHT	64	AUT
36	Laura ROVERA	62.25	ITA
37	Sandra LANDY	62	FRA
38	Christine LUSTIN	61.50	FRA
39	Michèle CROZET	60.25	FRA
40	Carla GIANARDI	59.75	ITA
41	Wietske van ZWOL	57.50	NLD
42	Ulrike SCHRECKENBERGER	56	GER
43	Anda BARBER	54.75	ISR
44	Michele HANDLEY	54.50	GBR
—	Ewa HARASIMOWICZ	54.50	POL
46	Hélène ZUCCARELI	54.25	FRA
47	Danuta HOCHKEKER	54	POL
48	Charlotte PALMUND	53.25	DEN
49	Eilly SCHIPPERS	49.25	NLD
50	Carla ARNOLDS	48	NLD

RATING POINTS / OPEN

1	Alain LÉVY	290.25	FRA
2	Hervé MOUIEL	268.25	FRA
3	Christian MARI	251	FRA
4	Apolinary KOWALSKI	222.25	POL
5	Paul CHEMLA	220.25	FRA
6	Franck MULTON	217.50	FRA
7	Jens AUKEN	216.25	DEN
8	Cezary BALICKI	211.75	POL
9	Adam ZMUDZINSKI	209.75	POL
10	Alfredo VERSACE	207	ITA
11	Geir HELGEMO	202.50	NOR
12	Lorenzo LAURIA	197	ITA
13	Jacek ROMANSKI	196.50	POL
14	Andrea BURATTI	193.75	ITA
—	Massimo LANZAROTTI	193.75	ITA
16	Lars BLAKSET	185.75	DEN
17	Anton MAAS	182.50	NLD
18	Boye BROGELAND	182.25	NOR
19	Michel PERRON	178.25	FRA
20	Dennis KOCH	174.75	DEN
21	Marc BOMPIS	155.75	FRA
22	Norberto BOCCHI	151.75	ITA
—	Giorgio DUBOIN	151.75	ITA
24	Jón BALDURSSON	147.50	ICE
25	Henri SZWARC	144.75	FRA
—	Søren CHRISTIANSEN	144.75	DEN
27	Ilan HERBST	139.75	ISR
28	Jouri KHIOPPENEN	136.50	RUS
29	Eric SÆLENSMINDE	132.25	NOR
30	Philippe SOULET	131.50	FRA
31	Jan WESTERHOF	130	NLD
32	Glenn GRØTHEIM	126.50	NOR
—	Terje Å	126.50	NOR
34	Krzysztof LASOCKI	125.25	POL
35	Alexander PETROUNINE	124.50	RUS
36	Tor HELNESS	123.25	NOR
37	Adalsteinn JÖRGENSEN	122.75	ICE
38	Lauge SCHÄFFER	122	DEN
39	Piet JANSEN	120.50	NLD
40	Jan van CLEEF	118	NLD
—	Jan JANSMA	118	NLD
42	Krzysztof GWIS	116.50	POL
43	Piotr GAWRYS	115.75	POL
44	Vadim KHOLOMEEV	115.50	RUS
45	Morten ANDERSEN	115	DEN
—	Saevar THORBJÖRNSSON	115	ICE
—	Peter FREDIN	115	SWE
48	Ofir HERBST	114.50	ISR
49	Robert REIPLINGER	107	FRA
50	J-C. QUANTIN	105.50	FRA
51	Tim ZLOTOV	100.50	RUS
52	Björn EYSTEINSSON	100	ICE
53	Jason HACKETT	99.25	GBR
54	Aleksander JEZIORO	99	POL
55	Janusz POLEC	97.75	POL
56	Berry WESTRA	96.75	NLD

Lists correct as at 30 June 1997

OBITUARIES

EDGAR KAPLAN, a true giant in the bridge world and a man whose legacy to the game is surely incalculable, died, September 7, at *Mount Sinai Hospital* in New York City after a 2½-year battle against cancer. He was 72.

KAPLAN'S career spanned six decades and covered every aspect of bridge. He was a teacher, author, editor, administrator, champion player, theorist, expert vugraph commentator, coach, captain and the authority on the laws of the game.

KAPLAN, born in New York City, learned bridge before he was 10 by watching his parents play. He continued to play during his school years, including a brief time at *Cornell University*, and later, he became a partner in the *Card School of New York*.

It didn't take long for KAPLAN to establish himself as a player. He won the first of his 26 North American championships – the *Vanderbilt Knockout Teams* – in 1953. He won major championships in every decade from

that point, including the 1997 Open Swiss Teams. KAPLAN was an ACBL Grand Life Master with more than 13,500 master points.

KAPLAN'S one disappointment was that he never won a world championship; his highest finish was second, in the 1968 World Team Olympiad. In fact, many observers believe him to be the best player never to win a world title.

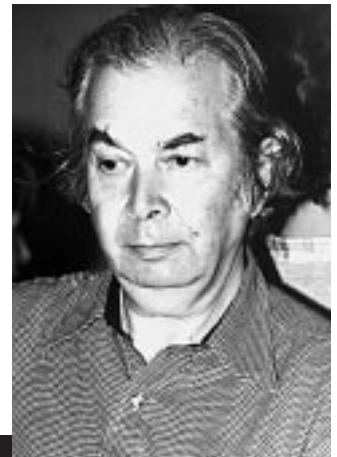
Expert play was but one aspect of KAPLAN'S legendary bridge prowess. With Alfred Sheinwold, who died in March, Kaplan created the *Kaplan-Sheinwold* bidding system, still in use by many players. In 1967 he became editor and publisher of *The Bridge World*, which will continue to be published despite his death.

KAPLAN was recognized as the world's foremost authority on the laws of duplicate and rubber bridge. He became co-chairman of the ACBL Laws Commission in 1978 and was co-chairman of the WBF Laws Commission at the time of his death.

KAPLAN was honored at many levels and by many organiza-

tions. In 1979 he was selected as the **Bridge Personality of the Year** by the *International Bridge Press Association*. He was named *ACBL Honorary Member* in 1993. In 1995 he was inducted into the *ACBL Bridge Hall of Fame* and the *WBF Hall of Fame*.

Beyond all of KAPLAN'S other accomplishments, what made him the idol of the masses was his peerless work as a vugraph



Edgar Kaplan

commentator. His dry wit and flawless timing kept vugraph audiences enthralled around the world. He was droll without being aloof and projected a deep knowledge of the game without being pedantic.

Even after he learned that cancer had invaded his body, KAPLAN maintained his sense of humor and an optimistic outlook. In an interview published in *The Bridge Bulletin* last year, KAPLAN noted that the various honors

being accorded him were being given 'as if they'd better hurry. But I intend to fool them. I intend to stick around'.

For another year and a half, Kaplan fought valiantly. He amazed all observers by traveling to Rhodes, Greece, for the World Team Olympiad in 1996. He had also hoped to make it to the 1997 *Bermuda Bowl*.

Kaplan enjoyed most of his success as a player with **Norman Kay**, a vast friend for 50 years.



Ron Andersen

RON ANDERSEN of Chicago, chief vugraph commentator at World, American and European events, died, July 4, of kidney failure.

ANDERSEN handled the vugraph commentary during the early

days of the European Championships in Montecatini, but his health took a turn for the worse and he died shortly after returning to the United States

In recent years, ANDERSEN, one of the most successful bridge players in the world, had concentrated his efforts primarily in commentating.

He began as a commentator at North American events, and his

highly entertaining manner made him an instant sensation. Word of his exceptional ability reached world officials, and he became part of the WBF Vugraph commentating team, providing an excellent foil for **Edgar Kaplan**.

The EBL, aware of his talents, brought ANDERSEN to Killarney in 1991, where he did an outstanding job and was invited to be the chief commentator at all subsequent European championships.

Despite all his work as a commentator, ANDERSEN tallied the second most master points in the history of the ACBL. Only his close friend, **Paul Soloway**, has earned more points.

ANDERSEN was a World Master and an American Grand Master. His playing accomplishments are legion. He won many North American championships, but never a world championship.

In 1981 ANDERSEN played in the first international bridge tournament ever held in mainland China. He also delivered a lecture at the University in Shanghai with translation help from **Kathie Wei-Sender**, a many-time world champion in her own right.

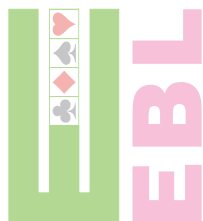
But his accomplishments don't end there – far from it. He was a major contributor to the literature of bridge. He was editor-in-chief of the Championship Bridge Series, and he wrote two of the books in the series – *Killing Their Notrump* and *Matchpoint Tactics*. He authored four books on the *Precision* system as well as *Where and How High* and *Lebensohl*. He has been a co-author of many other works, including *Preempts from A to Z* (in cooperation with **Sabine Auken**), *Making the Most of Your Limited Opening Bids*, *Profits from Preempts*, *Perfect Your No trump Bidding* and *Action for the Defense*.

At the bridge table, ANDERSEN was a fierce competitor, always fully aware of what was happening around him and always on the lookout for any edge he could find that would increase the possibility of victory.



• This is an abridged list of the tournaments scheduled to take place in Europe in the first half of 1998. More information is contained in the comprehensive publication *1998 EBL Competition Calendar*.

COMPETITION CALENDAR



JANUARY

- 15-18** 6th *Taoro Parque* Bridge Tournament / Tenerife, **Spain**
- 16-18** EBU Swiss Teams Congress / Leeds, **Great Britain**
- 24** *Speedcard* Tournament / Amstelveen, **The Netherlands**

APRIL

- 3-8** Olrud-påskén 1998 / Hamar, **Norway**
- 10-13** Easter Festival of Bridge / London, **Great Britain**
- 11-12** 3rd Marina Calcutta 'Big Money Event' / Scheveningen, **The Netherlands**

- 31-Feb. 6** 4th Malta International Bridge Festival / St. Julian's, **Malta**

MAY

- 1-3** International Preolympic Tournament / Warsaw, **Poland**
- 1-5** EBU Spring Foursomes / Stratford-upon-Avon, **Great Britain**
- 6-10** Loen Festival / Nordfjord, **Norway**
- 15-28** 49th International Bridge Festival *Juan-les-Pins* / Juan-les-Pins, **France**
- 20-21** Bonn Cup - *Bonn Nations Cup* / Bad Godesberg, Bonn, **Germany**
- 22-28** 11th International Bridge Tournament '*Costa Calida*' / Murcia, **Spain**
- 23-25** EBU Spring Bank Holiday Congress / Bournemouth, **Great Britain**
- 25-31** 13th International Bridge Festival '*Locomotiva*' / Bucharest, **Romania**
- 28-31** 31th Tallinn International Bridge Festival / Tallinn, **Estonia**
- 30** Marathon / Amstelveen, **The Netherlands**

FEBRUARY

- 13-15** 13th International Tournament '*Copa Giralda*' / Sevilla, **Spain**
- 13-16** *Icelandair* Open / Reykjavik **Iceland**
- 19-28** 32nd Israel International Bridge Festival / Tel Aviv, **Israel**
- 21-March 1** 12th International Bridge Festival '*des Jeux*' / Cannes, **France**

MARCH

- 8-14** 11th Festival *Isla de Tenerife* / Canary Islands, **Spain**
- 11-15** 21st Budapest International Bridge Festival / Budapest, **Hungary**
- 20-25** Kalamata International Tournament / Kalamata, **Greece**
- 28-29** 33rd Kaasstad Tournament / Alkmaar, **The Netherlands**
- 28-April 1** **5th European Mixed Championships** / Aachen, **Germany**



JUNE

- 16-27** 16th Bridge Festival / Albena, **Bulgaria**
- 20-21** *KoopTjuchem* Bridge Tournament / Badhoevedrop, **The Netherlands**
- 24-30** Sørlandets International Bridge Tournament / Kristiansand, **Norway**
- 25-28** 42nd Lake Balaton Bridge Festival/ Lake Balaton, **Hungary**
- 26-28** *Carta Mundi* Bridge Festival / Ostend, **Belgium**
- 30-July 12** *Biarritz* International Bridge Festival / Biarritz, **France**

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10th WORLD BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS
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