Let’s have a party!

It was a magical evening – figuratively and literally – as the 11th World Teams Bridge Olympiad celebrated opening night in spectacular fashion at the Theater aan het Vrijthof in Maastricht city center.

"Let’s have a party!" cried magician Richard Ross as he stood on stage with WBF President José Damiani and Deputy Prime Minister An nemarie Jorritsma-Lebbink, both covered in streamers and confetti, the climax of a celebration witnessed by hundreds of competitors and throngs of organizers.

Ross had opened the evening in disguise as part of a skit which ended with the WBF flag in position at the back of the stage. Ross followed Harry van de Peppel, chairman of the Dutch organizing committee, and displayed his sleight-of-hand magic - including several card tricks - between each of the opening-night speakers.

As Damiani took the podium near the end, he remarked about Ross: "I definitely refuse to play rubber bridge with that guy."

Damiani noted that the Olympiad was played 20 years ago in Limburg, the Dutch province of which Maastricht is the capital. In fact, two of the competitors at Valkenburg in 1980 will compete again in Maastricht: the Netherlands’ Anton Maas, who earned a bronze medal, and France’s Paul Chemla, who won the gold.

"The history of bridge is being rewritten," Damiani said, reading a letter from Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the Inter national Olympic Committee. Samaranch wished the WBF and the Dutch organizers of the tournament well. "We soon hope to Join the Olympic Games," Damiani said.

Jorritsma noted that she enjoys playing, although she downplayed her own skill. As she left the stage for the first time, however, she showed her knowledge of bridge history with a piece of advice for players: "When in doubt in leading against a grand slam with two aces, try spades." This was a reference to a disaster suffered by the U.S. in the 1980 Olympiad final against France, when Bob Hamman led the ♣A against a grand slam by France, allowing declarer to take all the tricks in a doubled contract.

Mayor Philip Houwen of Maastricht told the crowd that those who "think and play bridge at the same time" chose to be in his city for the next two weeks. "Maastricht, the ultimate European city, is proud to welcome you."

The speaker with the best sense of humor no doubt was Laurens Hoedemaker, president of the Dutch Bridge Federation. After welcoming the players and acknowledging the support of Limburg and the city of Maastricht, Hoedemaker took part in a magic trick engineered by Ross, who said Hoedemaker needed to change his name to "Laurens the Greatest."

Hoedemaker wished all competitors well, reminding them that "members of the national organizing committee and the volunteers have devoted their time to what will become your event."
Madam Minister
Mr. Mayor
Rector of the University
Dear Friends

Firstly allow me to congratulate our Dutch friends on this magnificent presentation, which results from a long and painstaking preparation of this Olympiad. I also give a thought to those colleagues who are no longer with us but who were present twenty years ago when we were here in the same Province of Limburg - in Valkenburg - beautifully situated in the heart of Europe. André Boekhorst, Wim Wagner and Harry van der Helm were among those from The Netherlands who contributed to the spread of the organization and development of international bridge and their successors today - the President Laurence Hoedemaker, Harry van de Peppel and Marijke Blanken to name but a few - are worthy heirs.

I am sure, Madam Minister, that you will be able to observe that our sport of bridge generates events that bring about a large economic and touristic movement. You may also be sure, Mr. Mayor, that our community will know how to appreciate to the full your city that has remained as charming as it is steeped in history.

The history of bridge is being rewritten in Olympian leaps and bounds and this is confirmed by the message I have just received from the IOC President Samaranch who wrote:

"On behalf of the International Olympic Committee, I would like to take this opportunity to extend to you my very best wishes for the World Championship to be held in Maastricht, Netherlands. "I trust this event will prove to be a successful and memorable occasion for the organisers, the competitors and the spectators.""

It would be a great pity not to respond to this with enthusiasm and it is why we can but regret - even if we register a little progress in the Open - the absence of too many players in the Women's and the juniors in the University Cup from the larger wealthy countries, despite my strong personal support.

You should be aware, ladies and gentlemen, that you as champions represent the beginnings of a groundswell that we hope to see developing and involving people at all levels throughout the world.

It is no coincidence that we have created here the 1st Senior International Cup. We also have a special affection for the youth of the world and that is why we have created, in addition, the 1st University Cup with the help of the FISU. I would like to thank President George Killian and Secretary-General Roch Campana of FISU, and Mr. Declerc of FISU for their support, with the participation of many local and national sponsors and partners such as Electrabel, Ebridge and World Bridge Production.

Thanks to the attention we give you and that you well deserve, as the champions of our great sport, we soon hope to join the Olympic Games of which these Olympiads already reflect the spirit.

It is in this hope, underscored by ceaseless efforts, that I am going to use my privilege to have the honour of asking Madam Minister to assist me in officially opening this 11th Olympiad.
## OPEN TEAMS PROGRAM

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**Maastricht - The Netherlands**  
**11th WORLD TEAMS BRIDGE OLYMPIAD**

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**OPEN TEAMS PROGRAM**

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### Round 11
Maastricht - The Netherlands 11th WORLD TEAMS BRIDGE OLYMPIAD

ROUND 12

GROUP A
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2. Poland
3. Brazil
4. Sweden
5. Denmark
6. France
7. Romania
8. Latvia
9. Austria
10. India

GROUP B
1. Brazil
2. Spain
3. Ukraine
4. Italy
5. Switzerland
6. Canada
7. Austria
8. Belgium
9. Czech Republic
10. Sweden

GROUP C
1. Hungary
2. Australia
3. Sweden
4. Portugal
5. Thailand
6. China
7. Russia
8. Poland
9. Germany
10. Czech Republic

GROUP D
1. Argentina
2. Japan
3. Canada
4. China
5. Korea
6. Malaysia
7. Italy
8. Russia
9. Ukraine

ROUND 13

GROUP A
1. Denmark
2. Brazil
3. Austria
4. Switzerland
5. Colombia
6. Hong Kong
7. Croatia
8. Ireland
9. Poland

GROUP B
1. Wales
2. Spain
3. Austria
4. Brazil
5. Colombia
6. Hong Kong
7. Croatia
8. Ireland
9. Poland

GROUP C
1. England
2. Germany
3. France
4. Spain
5. France
6. Germany
7. France
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9. France

GROUP D
1. China
2. New Zealand
3. Bulgaria
4. Turkey
5. Malaysia
6. Iran
7. Argentina
8. New Zealand
9. Argentina

ROUND 14

GROUP A
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4. Switzerland
5. Colombia
6. Hong Kong
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9. Poland

GROUP B
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3. Austria
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5. Colombia
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GROUP C
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9. France

GROUP D
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9. Argentina

ROUND 15

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GROUP B
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GROUP D
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ROUND 16

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GROUP D
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ROUND 17

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3. France
4. Spain
5. France
6. Germany
7. France
8. Germany
9. France

GROUP D
1. China
2. New Zealand
3. Bulgaria
4. Turkey
5. Malaysia
6. Iran
7. Argentina
8. New Zealand
9. Argentina

5
WOMEN’s TEAMS PROGRAM

ROUND 1

GROUP A
41 Hong Kong
42 Italy
43 Austria
44 Denmark
45 Sweden
46 Spain
47 Brazil
48 USA
49 England
50 Israel

GROUP B
51 Czech Republic
52 Poland
53 China
54 Egypt
55 Mexico
56 Scotland
57 South Africa
58 Morocco
59 Greece
60 India

ROUND 2

GROUP A
41 Norway
42 Indonesia
43 Jamaica
44 Ireland
45 Croatia
46 New Zealand
47 Chinese Taipei
48 Russia
49 Japan
50 Finland

GROUP B
51 Wales
52 Argentina
53 Germany
54 Australia
55 Poland
56 South Africa
57 Turkey
58 France
59 Greece
60 Venezuela

ROUND 3

GROUP A
41 Hong Kong
42 Italy
43 Croatia
44 Austria
45 New Zealand
46 Spain
47 Chinese Taipei
48 Russia
49 Japan
50 Norway

GROUP B
51 Czech Republic
52 Poland
53 China
54 Egypt
55 Mexico
56 Scotland
57 Turkey
58 Morocco
59 Greece
60 Venezuela

ROUND 4

GROUP A
41 Jamaica
42 Ireland
43 Croatia
44 New Zealand
45 Chinese Taipei
46 Russia
47 Japan
48 Israel
49 Finland
50 Norway

GROUP B
51 Germany
52 Australia
53 Canada
54 Poland
55 Netherlands
56 Turkey
57 India
58 Venezuela
59 France
60 Argentina

ROUND 5

GROUP A
41 Hong Kong
42 Italy
43 Austria
44 Denmark
45 Sweden
46 Spain
47 Brazil
48 USA
49 Jamaica
50 Indonesia

GROUP B
51 Czech Republic
52 Poland
53 China
54 Egypt
55 Mexico
56 Scotland
57 South Africa
58 Morocco
59 Germany
60 Argentina

ROUND 6

GROUP A
41 Croatia
42 New Zealand
43 Chinese Taipei
44 Russia
45 Japan
46 Israel
47 England
48 Finland
49 Norway
50 Indonesia

GROUP B
51 Canada
52 Poland
53 Netherlands
54 Turkey
55 India
56 Venezuela
57 Greece
58 France
59 Wales
60 Argentina

ROUND 7

GROUP A
41 Hong Kong
42 Italy
43 Austria
44 Denmark
45 Sweden
46 Spain
47 Brazil
48 Croatia
49 Ireland
50 Jamaica

GROUP B
51 Czech Republic
52 Poland
53 China
54 Egypt
55 Mexico
56 Scotland
57 Turkey
58 Morocco
59 Greece
60 Germany

ROUND 8

GROUP A
41 Chinese Taipei
42 Russia
43 Japan
44 Denmark
45 Sweden
46 England
47 Finland
48 Norway
49 Indonesia
50 Jamaica

GROUP B
51 Netherlands
52 Turkey
53 China
54 Egypt
55 Mexico
56 Scotland
57 Turkey
58 Morocco
59 Greece
60 Australia

ROUND 9

GROUP A
41 Hong Kong
42 Italy
43 Austria
44 Denmark
45 Sweden
46 Spain
47 Brazil
48 Croatia
49 Ireland
50 Jamaica

GROUP B
51 Czech Republic
52 Poland
53 China
54 Egypt
55 Mexico
56 Scotland
57 Turkey
58 Morocco
59 Greece
60 Germany

ROUND 10

GROUP A
41 Japan
42 Israel
43 England
44 USA
45 Brazil
46 Finland
47 Norway
48 Indonesia
49 Jamaica
50 Indonesia

GROUP B
51 India
52 Czech Republic
53 Russia
54 Turkey
55 Brazil
56 Spain
57 Norway
58 Indonesia
59 Jamaica
60 Indonesia
ATTENTION ALL NBO CONGRESS DELEGATES

Please note that the meeting of WBF Congress will be held on Wednesday, 30th August 2000 at 10:30 a.m. All NBOs participating in this 2000 World Teams Olympiad are urged to ensure that their delegate is present at this very important meeting.

Teams where the delegate is also a player are asked to ensure that their delegate is available during this period.

The WBF Congress will be followed by a cocktail reception to which all delegates are cordially invited.

The venue for the Congress will be advised as soon as it is decided.
International Olympic Committee

Chateau de Vidy, 1007 Lausanne, Switzerland - Tel (41-21) 621 6111
Facsimile number (41-21) 621 6216

Facsimile Communication Form

To: World Bridge Federation

Attention: Mr. José Damiani
President

From: Juan Antonio Samaranch
IOC President

Pages (including cover page): 1

Date: 2nd August 2000

Re: World Championship

Dear President and Friend,

On behalf of the International Olympic Committee, I would like to take this opportunity to extend to you my very best wishes for the World Championship to be held in Maastricht, Netherlands.

I trust this event will prove to be a successful and memorable occasion for the organizers, the competitors and the spectators.

Yours sincerely,

Juan Antonio Samaranch
Marqués de Samaranch
In 1960, the WBF introduced two new competitions, the World Team Olympiad and the Women’s World Team Olympiad, open to teams from any member country.

Harold S. Vanderbilt

The French, fielding a team including four members of their victorious 1956 Bermuda Bowl squad, won the Open event, while the United Arab Republic surprised the prominent bridge-playing nations by winning the Women’s event.

1st World Team Olympiad in Turin, Italy

1st France:
R. Bacherich, P. Ghestem, P. Jais, R. Trézel,
C. Delmouly, G. Bourchtoff

2nd Great Britain:
J. T. Reese, B. Schapiro, A. Rose, N. Gardener,
M. J. Flint, R. Swimer

1st Women’s World Team Olympiad in Turin, Italy

1st United Arab Republic:
H. Camara, A. Choucry, S. Fathy, L. Gordon,
J. Morcos, S. Naugib

2nd France:
Mrs. Chanfray, Miss Morenas, Mrs. Gray,
Miss Rouviere, Mrs. Pouldjian, Mrs. Alexandre

3rd Denmark:
A. Faber, O. Dam, R. Fraenckel, L. Schaltz, G. Skotte

Unlike 1960, in 1964 each country (or National Contract Bridge Organization - NCBO) was allowed to enter only one team in the World Team Olympiad (and one in the Women’s event). With six consecutive Bermuda Bowl triumphs behind them, the Italians emphasised their superiority by winning the first of three successive Olympiad titles. Meanwhile, the British ladies collected their first World team title, winning every match except the last (when the title was already assured). For Rixi Markus & Fritzi Gordon, this victory gave them an unprecedented triple - the Olympiad, the World Women’s Pairs and the World Mixed Teams.

The Open event consisted of a 29-team Round Robin from which the leading four teams qualified for a knockout stage. The Women’s event, with only 15 teams, was contested over a Round Robin only.

This was the tournament that got bridge back on to the front pages of the world’s newspapers, as Lebanon and the United Arab Republic refused to play against Israel. The journalists had a field day interviewing the captain of the UAR team, one O. Sharif, who was taking a break from making some obscure film about a doctor caught up in the Russian revolution.

2nd World Team Olympiad in New York City, NY, USA

Italy defeated Great Britain by 6 IMPs in one semi-final.
USA defeated Canada by 16 IMPs in the other.
Italy defeated USA by 46 IMPs in the final.
Great Britain won the play-off for third place by 11 IMPs.

This sensational defence featured one of the legends of the game, Italy’s Benito Garozzo, who was in the West seat.

Dealer South. N/S Vul.

♠ A 9 3
♣ Q 5 2
♥ 8 4 2
♦ K Q

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

West North East South
Pass 2♣ Pass 1♣
Pass 4♠ Pass 2♠
Pass 4NT Pass 4♦
Pass 6♣ All Pass

North’s strange looking jump to Four Clubs was an asking bid.

Despite the fact that South had shown first round control in clubs, Garozzo attacked with a club lead. South won, cashed dummy’s king and queen of diamonds, and the ace of hearts. He then ruffed a heart and discarded dummy’s losing club on the ace
of diamonds. He then ruffed a club, and discarded a club on the king of hearts. When he led another heart from dummy, East discarded his remaining club and declarer ruffed with the ten of spades. Garozzo promptly overruffed with the king!! When he continued with the king of clubs, declarer ruffed with dummy’s ace and ran the nine of spades, hoping to pin the eight in West’s hand.

Benito Garozzo

1st Italy:
G Belladonna, P Forquet, M d’Alelio, E Chiaradia,
B Garozzo, C Pabis Ticci

2nd USA:
R D Hamman, D P Krauss, S M Stayman, V Mitchell,
A G Robinson, R F Jordan

3rd Great Britain:
M Harrison-Gray, M J Flint, K W Konstam, J Tarlo,
J T Reese, B Schapiro

2nd Women’s World Team Olympiad
in New York City, NY, USA

1st Great Britain:
R Markus, F Gordon, A L Fleming, J Juan,
M Moss, D Shanahan

2nd USA:
A Gordon, M Kaplan, A Kempner, H Portugal,
S Rebner, J Stone

3rd France:
S Baldon, A Chanfray, Mme De Gailhard, J Velut,
M Serf, G Morenas

Less than ten days before the start of the third Olympiad in Deauville in 1968 no planes were landing in Paris and there were barricades in the streets of the French capital! Despite the problems, the ingenuity of the world’s finest players was revealed as almost all the teams who had entered managed to find a way to get to the venue. The Italians retained the Harold S Vanderbilt Trophy by winning their second consecutive World Team Olympiad. In the Women’s Olympiad, the British did not defend their title and the Swedish team won the first ever World bridge championship for their country.

3rd World Team Olympiad in Deauville, France

Italy defeated Canada by 51 IMPs in one semi-final.
USA defeated The Netherlands by 32 IMPs in the other.
Italy defeated USA by 53 IMPs in the final.
Canada won the play-off for third place by 15 IMPs.

This deal shows why the Italians were so formidable:

Dealer North. All Vul.
♠ A 10 7 5 3 2
♥ K 4
♦ Q K 4 3
♣ Q 9
♥ Q 10 8 7 5
♦ J 9 5 4 2
♠ 10
♥ K 6
♦ A J 6 3 2
♦ 8
♠ Q J 7 5 2

East led the nine of diamonds, and declarer won and played three rounds of spades. He could now claim, losing a trump, a diamond and a club.

2nd Women’s World Team Olympiad
in New York City, NY, USA

1st Great Britain:
R Markus, F Gordon, A L Fleming, J Juan,
M Moss, D Shanahan

2nd USA:
A Gordon, M Kaplan, A Kempner, H Portugal,
S Rebner, J Stone

3rd France:
S Baldon, A Chanfray, Mme De Gailhard, J Velut,
M Serf, G Morenas

Pabis Ticci found the brilliant lead of the ace of clubs. He continued with the six of clubs, and West ruffed and played back a diamond. After giving West a second club ruff, East still had to make a trick with the jack of spades.

1st Italy:
G Belladonna, P Forquet, M d’Alelio, E Chiaradia,
B Garozzo, C Pabis Ticci

2nd USA:
E Kaplan, N Kay, W S Root, A I Roth,
A G Robinson, R F Jordan

3rd Canada:
C B Elliott, W J Crissey, E R Murray, S R Kehela,
G Charney, P E Sheardown

Italy’s Blue Team once again captured the Olympiad championship: Pietro Forquet, Benito Garozzo, Massimo D’Alelio, Giorgio Belladonna, Walter Avarelli, Angelo Tracanella
3rd Women’s World Team Olympiad
in Deauville, France

1st Sweden:
B Blom, K Eriksson, E Martensson, R Segander,
G Silborn, B Werner

2nd South Africa:
T Beron, G Goslar, P Mansell, E Sender,
R Jacobson, A Schneider

3rd USA:
H Baron, R Walsh, S Sachs, N Gruver, E-J Hawes, D Hayden

In 1972 the Italian Blue Team came out of retirement to defend their Olympiad crown, and they dominated the field en route to the final against the reigning World Champions, the Dallas Aces, who were representing the USA. The Italians won the final comfortably and, not to be outdone, their ladies team also won the Women’s event, while South Africa and the USA repeated their silver and bronze medal performances of four years earlier.

The multicoloured Two Diamonds was still comparatively new, and could unseat even the greatest players:

Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West North East South

Cansino Forquet Flint Garozzo

West

Pass

North

Forquet

East

Flint

Pass

South

Garozzo

Dble

3NT

Who would you care to blame for this particular disaster? If North had hearts he might have started with a double. Still, Italy went on to the title.

4th World Team Olympiad
in Miami Beach, Florida, USA

Italy defeated France by 90 IMPs in one semi-final.
USA defeated Canada by 118 IMPs in the other.
Italy defeated USA by 65 IMPs in the final.
Canada won the playoff for third place by 73 IMPs.

1st Italy:
G Belladonna, P Forquet, M D’Alelio, E Chiaradia,
B Garozzo, C Pabis Ticci

2nd USA:
R D Hamman, R S Wolff, P Soloway, R Goldman,
J Jacoby, M S Lawrence

3rd Canada:
B Gowdry, W J Crissey, E R Murray, S R Kehela,
G Charney, D R Phillips

4th Women’s World Team Olympiad
in Miami Beach, Florida, USA

1st Italy:
M Bianchi, R Jabes, M A Robaudo, L C Romanelli,
A Valenti, M V Venturini

2nd South Africa:
T Beron, J Disler, G Goslar, P Mansell,
R Jacobson, A Schneider

3rd USA:
E-J Hawes, D Hayden-Truscott, M-J Farell, M Johnson,
P Solomon, J Mitchell

1976 was a busy year, as both the World Team Olympiads and the Bermuda Bowl/Venice Cup were staged in the same year. There were two NCBOs sending teams to the Bermuda Bowl for the first time - Israel as European champions, and Hong Kong as the Asian representatives. For the first time too, the great Italian Blue Team were beaten - and twice too! They reached the final of the Bermuda Bowl but lost to the Aces. This was indeed the end of an era - the Italians have come close to winning the Bermuda Bowl since 1975, but have not yet done so.

In the Olympiad, the Italians lost their crown to the Brazilians, whose victory meant a first World bridge title to representatives of the South American zone.

In the Women’s events, the Italians retained their Olympiad crown, while the Americans repeated their Venice Cup success of two years earlier by beating the British European Champions. There were no play-offs in either event - just a complete Round Robin with the results of each match converted to victory points.

5th World Team Olympiad
in Monte Carlo, Monaco

1st Brazil:
P P Assumpcao, G P Chagas, S Barbosa, M Branco,
G Cintra, C Fonseca

2nd Italy:
G Belladonna, P Forquet, B Garozzo, A Franco,
C Mosca, S Sbarigia

5th Women’s World Team Olympiad
in Monte Carlo, Monaco

1st Italy:
M Bianchi, R Jabes, M A Robaudo, A Valenti,
L Capodanno, M B d’Andrea

2nd Great Britain:
C Esterson, N P Gardener, S Landy, R Oldroyd,
R Markus, F Gordon

3rd USA:
B-A Kennedy, E-J Hawes, D Hayden-Truscott,
C Sanders, J Mitchell, G Moss

In 1980, the French, who had won the first World Team Olympiad in 1960, won their first World title in 20 years, beating the USA team in a close final. The format in the Open divided the teams into two pools, with four teams from each advancing to the second stage. At that point the eight qualifiers were again divided into two for a second Round Robin, with the winning team from each group advancing to the final.

The Women’s Olympiad was played as a complete Round
Robin, and for the first time in six attempts the USA team emerged victorious. However, this was not a first World title for any of the American women, as they were reigning Venice Cup holders. This win completed the Women’s Triple Crown for Johnson and Farell – the Olympiad, the Venice Cup and the World Women’s Pairs – the first women to achieve that distinction. Indeed, Farell had now achieved a unique quartet of victories, having also won the World Mixed Pairs. The victory also elevated Dorothy Truscott (previously Hayden) to the number one spot in the WBF world women’s rankings, taking over from Britain’s Rixi Markus, who had held that position for the previous ten years. Farell also overtook Markus to move into second place behind Truscott. The Italian team, containing four players who had been on the winning team at the last two Women’s Olympiads, collected silver medals this time around.

6th World Team Olympiad in Valkenburg, The Netherlands

France defeated USA by 20 IMPs in the final.

1st France:
P Chemla, C Mari, M Lebel, M Perron, H Szwarc, P Soulet

2nd USA:
P Soloway, I S Rubin, R D Hamman, R S Wolff, M Passell, F Hamilton

This deal from the 1980 final has passed into legend.
Slip into the seat occupied by World Number 1, Bob Hamman, as West.

Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ A K J 8 7 6
♥ A 10 7 6 3 2
♦ –
♣ 2

West North East South
Hamman Chemla Wolff Mari

2♦ 2▽ 4♠ 4NT
5♠ 6♣ Pass 6♦
6♣ 7▽ Pass Pass

Dble All Pass

Two Diamonds was a Michaels cuebid promising the majors, and North has shown a good hand with support for diamonds and a decent club suit. Having tried in vain to buy the hand in Six Spades, Hamman declined to sacrifice.

What are you going to lead?

♠ 4
▲ –
♦ K J 7 5
♣ A Q J 10 6 5 4 3

♠ A K J 8 7 6
♥ A 10 7 6 3 2
♦ –
♣ 2

♣ K Q 9
♥ A 10 9 8 3 2
♠ K 9 8

Knowing that his partner almost certainly held longer spades than hearts, Hamman led the ace of hearts. Declarer ruffed, and was not hard pressed to get the trumps right.

Perhaps the clue to the winning lead lies in North’s first bid of Two Hearts, his subsequent bidding suggesting that he controlled that suit better than spades.

At the other table the USA collected +200 by defeating Six Spades, so the French team gained 19 IMPs instead of losing 9. They won the title by 20 IMPs.

6th Women’s World Team Olympiad in Valkenburg, The Netherlands

1st USA:
E-J Hawes, D Truscott, J Mitchell, G Moss, M-J Farell, M Johnson

2nd Italy:
M Bianchi, A Valenti, L Capodanno, M B D’Andrea, E Gut, A M Morini

This deal was widely reported:

Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ A K J 8 7 2
♥ A 10 3
♦ 8 5
♣ 7 4

♠ 6 3
♥ Q 8 7 5
♦ A 9 2
♣ 9 8 5 2

♥ A 10 4
♦ J 6
♣ Q J 10 4
♠ K J 10 3

West North East South
Bianchi Landy Valent Sowter
Pass 2♦ Pass Pass
Pass 2♠ All Pass

Bob Hamman reflects on an unlucky lead!
Declarer won West's opening lead of the five of clubs with the queen and took a losing spade finesse. East switched to the queen of diamonds, covered by the king and ace, and a diamond back to East's ten was followed by a heart finesse. West discarding a spade would expose her partner to a finesse, so she had to part with her diamond. When South did the same, West was squeezed in hearts and clubs.

The 7th World Team Olympiad in 1984 was a showcase for European Bridge. In the Open, all four semi-finalists came from that single WBF zone. Poland won its second World team title in six years, although none of the players had previously won at this level. Three of the four semi-finalists in the Women's event were also European teams, but here it was the Americans who emerged as triumphant, retaining the Olympiad title won in The Netherlands four years earlier. Two members of that team survived (Moss & Mitchell), while the other four successful players in Seattle had each won the World Women's Pairs.

Having also won the Venice Cup, Carol Sanders and Betty-Ann Kennedy join Mary-Jane Farell and Marilyn Johnson as the only players to have completed the Women's Triple Crown - the Olympiad, the Venice Cup and the World Women's Pairs.

For the first time ever (and, hopefully, the last, as the rules have since been changed) the team winning the final of a World Championship event did not win the title. The USA team had beaten the British by 45 IMPs in their Round Robin qualifying match, and the rules in force stated that when (if) they met later in the knockout stage then half of that advantage was carried forward. Therefore, although the British team defeated the Americans 102-87 in the 64-board final, this only reduced the Americans' carried forward lead by 15, so the Americans won the title by 7 IMPs.

**7th World Team Olympiad in Seattle, Washington, USA**

**Poland** defeated **Austria** by 4 IMPs in one semi-final.

**France** defeated **Denmark** by 15 IMPs in the other.

**Poland** defeated **France** by 80 IMPs in the final.

The final featured this fine effort by Wolny:

**Dealer North, N/S Vul.**

```
♠ J 8 3
♡ A K 8 7 4 2
♥ Q 10 3
♣ J K 10 7 5 4 2

♥ 6 ♦ J 7 ♦ K 10 8 6
♠ A Q 9
♥ J 9
♦ A K 9 8 2
♠ 9 5 2
```

West North East South

Wolny Szwarc Gawrys Mouiel

1♥ Pass 2♣

Pass Pass 3NT

Having survived in the auction, Wolny unerringly led a club to give the defenders the first five tricks.

1st **Poland**:

P Gawrys, H Wolny, T Przybora, P Tusznyski,
J Romanski, K Martens

2nd **France**:

P Chemla, M Perron, H Szwarz, H Mouiel,
F Covo, F Paladino

3rd= **Denmark**:

S Werdelin, J Auken, S Schou, J Hulgaard,
P Schaltz, K-A Boesgaard

**Austria**:

W Meini, H Berger, J Fucik, F Terraneo, A Milavec, F Kubak

**7th Women’s World Team Olympiad in Seattle, Washington, USA**

USA defeated France by 31 IMPs in one semi-final.

**Great Britain** defeated The Netherlands by 132 IMPs in the other.

USA defeated Great Britain by 7 IMPs (including the carry-forward) in the final.

1st **USA**:

G Moss, J Mitchell, K Wei, C Sanders,
B-A Kennedy, J Radin

2nd **Great Britain**:

N P Gardener, P Davies, S J Horton, S Landy,
S Scarborough, G Scott-Jones

3rd= **The Netherlands**:

P Kaas, B Vriend, L van der Brom, M van Mechelen,
E Schippers, M van der Pas

**France**:

N Cohen, H Zuccarelli, C Blouquit, E Delor,
F Pariente, A C de l’Epine

In 1988, at the eighth attempt, the USA finally broke their duck in the World Team Olympiad. For four of the American team, Bob Hamman, Bobby Wolff, Jeff Meckstroth and Eric Rodwell, this was the third leg of their Triple Crown - the Olympiad, the Bermuda Bowl and the World Open Pairs. This feat had previously achieved only by Roger Trézel and Pierre Jais of France, more than 25 years earlier, when they won the first World Pairs

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**IMPORTANT Amendment to the Regulations**

During the Round Robin Stage, if a pair is found to have used a Brown Sticker convention or a convention not listed on its Convention Card, it will be given a disciplinary penalty of two VPs deducted from the team's score. In addition, any favourable result arising from the use may be cancelled. The pair will not play again until it has corrected its card to the satisfaction of the Chief Tournament Director. If the pair re-offends in this way they will not be allowed to play in partnership for the rest of the event.
in 1962. For Hamman this was his fourth Olympiad final, and for Wolff his third. Curiously, Austrians Heinrich Berger and Wolfgang Meinl completed a Triple Crown also, but with silver medals, having finished second in the 1986 World Pairs, the 1985 Bermuda Bowl, and now the 1988 Olympiad.

The Women's event was won by Denmark - that country's first World bridge title. It was their third silver medal in this event for Great Britain's Sandra Landy and Nicola Smith (formerly Gardener).

This dramatic deal was the first board of the Open final:

**Dealer East. None Vul.**

- ♠ J 9 8 7
- ♠ K Q 9 7 2
- ♠ 8 4
- ♠ A 2

- ♠ 6
- ♦ 10 8 6 5
- ♦ 5 2
- ♦ K Q 10 6 5 3

- ♠ 3
- ♦ A J 4 3
- ♦ A K Q 10 9 3
- ♦ J 8

**West** | **North** | **East** | **South**
--- | --- | --- | ---
Deutsch | Kadlec | Wolff | Terraneo
4♠ | Pass | Pass | Pass
5♦ | Pass | 6♦ | Dble
All Pass

When West made the plausible but unlucky lead of the king of clubs, Austria were off to a fast start.

8th World Team Olympiad in Venice, Italy

1st USA:
- R D Hamman, R S Wolff, J J Meckstroth, E V Rodwell,
- S Deutsch, J Jacoby

2nd Austria:
- H Berger, J Fucik, W Meinl, A Kadlec, F Terraneo, F Kubac

8th Women's World Team Olympiad in Venice, Italy

1st Denmark:
- K Moeller, D Schaltz, B Kalkerup, C Palmund,
- T Dahl, J Norris

2nd Great Britain:
- N P Smith, P Davies, S Landy, E McGowan,
- S Penfold, M Brunner

In 1992, the Olympiads followed the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup formats by qualifying eight teams to the knockout stage. Great Britain reached its fifth Women's World Team Olympiad final in nine attempts, but for the fourth time (and the third consecutive occasion) they came away with the silver medals. This time it was the Austrian team, three of whom had lost in the final of the Venice Cup a year earlier, that claimed the World Championship title.

In the Open, the USA team matched the British women's achievement exactly by reaching their fifth final and losing for the fourth time. Meanwhile, the French reached their fourth final and equalled Italy's record of three victories in the event.

The Danish team included a married couple - Peter and Dorte Schaltz - and in reaching the quarter-finals they established the best ever performance by such a pair. The same Danish team also featured a pair of brothers - Lars and Knut Blakset - and this was the first time such a pair had reached the latter stages of an Olympiad. In the Open, six European teams emerged from the Round Robin stage. The only non-European teams in the knockout stages were the USA and a surprise African representative, Egypt. In the Women's, Europe did even better by qualifying seven teams to the knockout rounds, the only exception being China.

This was the most dramatic board of the Open final.

**Dealer South. None Vul.**

- ♠ J 9 8 7
- ♠ 10 9
- ♠ A 6 4
- ♠ J 9 8 5 3 2

- ♢ A
- ♢ 9 7 5 4
- ♢ 9 7 2
- ♢ A 1 0 7

- ♣ Q 8 6 2
- ♣ A K 6 3 2
- ♣ Q 8
- ♣ Q 4

**Closed Room**

**West** | **North** | **East** | **South**
--- | --- | --- | ---
Rodwell | Levy | Meckstroth | Mouiel
INT | 2NT | Pass | 1NT
Pass | Pass | 4♠ | All Pass

Notice that Alain Levy was not afraid to respond to his partner's opening bid, a theme I was to use later in my Bols Bridge Tip, 'Don't be afraid to respond'.

Four Spades was a reasonable contract but it was doomed from the start. The opening lead of the king of hearts was ruffed and declarer crossed to the ace of spades to lay a diamond to the jack and queen. South returned a diamond, collected his ruff and still had to score the queen of spades for +50.

**Open Room**

**West** | **North** | **East** | **South**
--- | --- | --- | ---
Chemla | Hamman | Perron | Wolff
Pass | Pass | Dble

I have never really understood why people play Flannery and this board was certainly not a good advertisement for the convention.

Chemla led the ace of spades and must have enjoyed the sight of dummy's ♦109. He switched to the queen of hearts and when declarer won and tried a low club he went up with the ace of clubs and played the jack of hearts. East won the next club and cashed the king of spades allowing Chemla to get rid of his remaining club. Next came the jack of spades, covered by the queen and ruffed. Chemla switched to a diamond, ducked to East's king ...
and Perron played winning spades. Declarer could make only three tricks, the ♦AK and the ♦A. A painful way to lose 1100.

9th World Team Olympiad in Salsomaggiore, Italy

In the quarter-finals:

**USA** beat **Egypt** by 71 IMPs.
**The Netherlands** beat **Israel** by 9 IMPs.
**Sweden** beat **Poland** by 75 IMPs.
**France** beat **Denmark** by 4 IMPs.

**USA** defeated **Sweden** by 71 IMPs in one semi-final.
**France** defeated **The Netherlands** by 37 IMPs in the other.

**USA** defeated **Sweden** by 71 IMPs in one semi-final.
**France** defeated **The Netherlands** by 80 IMPs in the final.

1st **France**:
- P Chemla, M Perron, A Levy, H Mouiel, M Auhaleu, P Adad

2nd **USA**:
- R D Hamman, R S Wolff, J J Meckstroth, E V Rodwell, S Deutsch, M Rosenberg

3rd= **Sweden**:
- B Fallenius, M Nilsland, A Morath, S-A Bjerregard, A Brunzell, J Nielsen

**The Netherlands**:
- J van der Neut, M Nooijen, E Leufkens, B Westra, W de Boer, B Muller

9th Women’s World Team Olympiad in Salsomaggiore, Italy

In the quarter-finals:

**France** beat **China** by 54 IMPs.
**Austria** beat **Sweden** by 51 IMPs.
**Germany** beat **Denmark** by 76 IMPs.
**Great Britain** beat **The Netherlands** by 120 IMPs.
**Great Britain** defeated **Germany** by 26 IMPs in one semi-final.

**Austria** defeated **France** by 14 IMPs in the other.
**Austria** defeated **Great Britain** by 48 IMPs in the final.

At the half-way point of the final, Great Britain were on course for victory, but then ran into a juggernaut in the guise of Austria’s Maria Erhart. As the captain of the British team, here is an example that I still recall:

**Dealer North. None Vul.**

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

In the Open Room, an undistinguished auction and a muddled defence had seen Great Britain collect +300 from five clubs doubled.

**South’s Four Diamond bid is what I would call a ‘serious splinter’, and Maria obviously thought so as well! It set her team on the road to one of the most famous sessions in the Olympiads, where they outscored GB by 95-37 IMPs.**

1st **Austria**:
- M Erhart, B Lindinger, D Fischer, T Weigkricht, J Smederevac, H Gyimesi

2nd **Great Britain**:
- E McGowan, S Penfold, S Landy, M Handley, N P Smith, P Davies

3rd= **Germany**:
- S Zenkel, D von Arnim, W Vogt, B Nehmert, M Moegel, K Caesar
**France**:

Victory in the 10th World Team Olympiad in 1996 made France the most successful nation in the event. Since its inception in 1960, the French had recorded four victories - one more than the great Italian Blue Team achieved. The losing finalists were Indonesia, and although they had been one of the leading Asian teams, and thus regular participants at the Bermuda Bowl for many years, this was easily their most successful event to date. The bronze medals went to Denmark, a strong European bridge-playing nation, but one still seeking its first Open World bridge title. One curious note to this event was the appearance of Jason, Justin and Paul Hackett in the British team - the first time that three family members (in this case, father and twin brothers) had ever played in the same team.

In the Women’s Olympiad, it was business as usual and another victory for the Americans. For Juanita Chambers, her victory in Rhodes gave her an unusual treble - she is the only player to have won the Venice Cup, the Women’s Olympiad and the World Mixed Pairs. China were the losing finalists, which is the closest they have yet come to a World bridge title, and it can only be a matter of time before they break their duck. One notable achievement was the victory of America’s former Russian Irina Levitina, who became the first person to have won a World title at both bridge and chess.

**This was one of the more humorous moments of the Championships:**

**Dealer South. N/S Vul.**

- ♣ 2
- ♥ 10 9 2
- ♦ 4 3 2
- ♠ 10 9 8 6 5 4
- ♣ 8 6 5 4
- ♥ 6 5
- ♦ J 8 6 5
- ♠ A 3 2
- ♣ K Q J 7
- ♥ J 7 4 3
- ♦ 7
- ♠ K Q J 7
**West** | **North** | **East** | **South**
---|---|---|---
Szwarc | Nemtsev | Multon | Volkov

**All Pass**

Playing a strong club and five-card majors, South felt compelled to open in his shortest suit, being well placed in the event of any response. Alas, answer came there none, and declarer scored just two tricks, -500.

**West** | **North** | **East** | **South**
---|---|---|---
Mikhaylenko | Mouiel | Livshitis | Levy

**Pass** | **Pass** | **2 ♠** | **All Pass**

When the Ukrainians got their wires crossed, they had managed to improve on their other pair’s score, losing only -100, but they had done so on a 3-0 fit as opposed to the 3-1 attempted at the other table.

### 10th World Team Olympiad in Rhodes, Greece

**1st France:**
- M Bompis, A Levy, C Mari, H Mouiel, F Multon, H Szwarc

**2nd Indonesia:**
- K Lasut, E Manoppo, D Sacul, Karwur, Panelewau, Watulingas

**3rd Denmark:**
- J Auken, L Blakset, D Kock-Palmund, L Schaeffer, S Christensen, L Andersen

### 10th Women’s World Team Olympiad in Rhodes, Greece

**1st USA:**
- J Blanchard, J Chambers, L Deas, G Greenberg, S Quinn, I Levitina

**2nd China:**

**3rd Canada:**
- D Gordon, S Reus, B Kraft, F Cimon, R Habert, B J Saltsman

### World Open Team Olympiad

- **Total number of contests:** 10
- **Winners by country:**
  - France (4)
  - Italy (3)
  - Poland, USA, Brazil (1)
- **Most consecutive wins:**
  - Italy (3)
- **Wins by individuals:**
  - Walter Averelli, Giorgio Belladonna, Benito Garozzo, Pietro Forquet, Camillo Pabls Ticci, Massimo d’Alelio (3)
  - Paul Chemla, Michel Perron, Henri Szwarc, Hervé Mouiel, Christian Mari, Alain Levy (2)

### Women’s World Teams Olympiad

- **Total number of contests:** 10
- **Winners by country:**
  - USA (3)
  - Italy (2)
  - Sweden, GB, UAR, Denmark, Austria (1)
- **Most consecutive wins:**
  - Italy (2)
- **Wins by individuals:**
  - Gail Moss, Jacqui Mitchell, Anna Valenti, Marissa Bianchi, Rina Jabes (2)
**Dutch Women**

During the Olympiad, it is the hope of the editors to publish profiles of each team taking part. What follows - profiles of the Dutch Women's team, winners of the 2000 Venice Cup in Bermuda - is the kind of information we are seeking. Please visit the Daily Bulletin office in the MECC (Room 0.6) with your player profiles.

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**BEP VRIEND**

Bep Vriend, a bridge teacher from Amstelveen, learned bridge in 1965. With her partner Carla Arnolds she won the European Ladies Pairs in 1993 and the World Ladies Pairs in 1994. Vriend and Arnolds were fifth in the World Ladies Pairs in Lille 1998. Since 1974 she has played in 12 Europeans. Since 1994 she partnered Marijke van der Pas. Bep and her husband Anton Maas (a frequent member of the Dutch Open Team) form one of the leading Dutch mixed pairs. In 1994 Vriend/Maas, with van der Pas-Tammens, won the European Mixed Teams. In 1998 Vriend/van der Pas won the gold medal at the last European Union Championships in Salsomaggiore, Italy. After Perth 1989 (silver), Yokohama 1991 and Tunisia 1997, Bermuda 2000 was her 4th Venice Cup appearance. With a sensational finish the Netherlands won the Venice Cup in Bermuda by the incredible margin of just 0.5 of an IMP from U.S.A.1. In Maastricht 2000 Bep will play the Olympiad for the sixth time in succession. Bep Vriend is an honorary member of the Dutch Bridge Federation and in April 1998 she received a Royal decoration for her contributions to bridge.

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**MARIJKE VAN DER PAS**

Marijke van der Pas, from Utrecht, has been playing bridge since 1967. She joined the Dutch Ladies team in 1979. With her previous partner, Elly Schippers, she won the European Ladies Pairs in 1980. She played 11 European Championships. She is a bridge journalist and works for the Dutch Bridge Magazine. Marijke is living together with Jaap Trouwborst, captain of the Dutch Open Team. Since 1994 she partnered Bep Vriend. In 1994 van der Pas/Tammens with Vriend/Maas won the European Mixed Teams. Her resumed includes a victory, playing with Vriend, at the last European Union Championships in Salsomaggiore. After Perth 1989 (silver), Yokohama 1991, Tunisia 1997, Bermuda 2000 was her fourth Venice Cup appearance. She too will be playing in her sixth straight Olympiad.

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**JET PASMAN**

Jet Pasman comes from Broek in Waterland, a small village north of Amsterdam. She started bridge in 1974. From 1989 to 1993 Jet was captain of the Dutch Ladies team during three European Championships, one Olympiad and two Venice Cups. Since 1979 she has played with Anneke Simons. As a player Jet represented the Netherlands in five Europeans. Jet, a sports teacher, is married to the coach of the Ladies team, Chris Niemeijer, a former player of the Dutch Open team. She and Simons were gold medal winners at the last European Union Championships in Salsomaggiore. After Tunisia 1997, Bermuda 2000 was her second appearance in the Venice Cup. In Maastricht 2000 Jet will play the Olympiad for the third time.

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**ANNEKE SIMONS**

Anneke Simons, a personnel manager, lives in Amsterdam together with Kees Tammens, a bridge journalist, and their 17-year-old son, Bas. Anneke learned bridge at the age of 20 and since 1979 has played with Jet Pasman. In 1988 she gave up bridge for four years. Anneke played five European Championships. Her appearance in the Venice Cup in Bermuda was her second. Her Olympiad appearance in Maastricht will be her third.

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**WIETSKE VAN ZWOL**

Wietse van Zwol, a native of Joure in the very north of Holland, is now living in Tilburg in the southern part of the country. She is married to Carel Berendregt and works as a business economics researcher. She learned to play bridge in 1982. Her partner from 1995 until the 1997 European Championships in Montecatini was Ine Gielkens. With her she won the European Union Ladies Pairs in Belgium in 1996. For the 1997 Tunisia Venice Cup Wietse renewed her partnership with Martine Verbeek. Wietse played in three European Championships. In 1998 van Zwol/Verbeek won the gold medal in Salsomaggiore. She now has two Venice Cup appearances and will be playing in her second Olympiad in Maastricht 2000.

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**MARTINE VERBEEEK**

Martine Verbeek, born in Amsterdam, is living together with Ron Pannebakker in Rotterdam. She learned bridge at age 14. Martine works as a bookkeeper in her own administration firm. For the Venice Cup in Tunisia 1997 she made her debut in an international championship by renewing her partnership with Wietse van Zwol, with whom she played from 1992 to 1994. In 1998 Verbeek/van Zwol won the gold medal in Salsomaggiore. Martine played in one European Championships (Malta 1999). She has made two appearances in the Venice Cup and will play in her first Olympiad in Maastricht.

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**ED FRANKEN**

Ed Franken, lives in Haarlem (west of Amsterdam). He is the team manager and captain of the Dutch Ladies Team since the European Championships in Vilamoura, 1995. Under his leadership the team won two championships, including the gold medal in Salsomaggiore.

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**CHRIS NIEMEIJER**

Chris Niemeijer is the coach of the Dutch Ladies Team since 1987. He is married to Jet Pasman and is a former player of the Dutch Open team.
The Man at the Top

The President of the World Bridge Federation, José Damiani, recently found the time for an interview with Mark Horton.

I would like to begin by finding out a little more about José Damiani when he is not engaged in the role of President. Tell me about your family life.

It is the most enjoyable part of life. My wife, Monique, and I have a daughter Caroline, who is married to a very good bridge player, and two sons, Laurent and Emmanuel, who work in our company. We have six grandchildren.

How did bridge become a part of your life?

By accident, because I discovered that I had congenital osteonecrose which prevented me from playing competitive tennis. Then I decided to take up bridge, and was lucky enough to find good partners. I was asked to become President of the club because of the illness of my best friend. Later on I was asked to become President of the District, and then I was asked to be President…

Your triumphs at the table?

I won six National French Championships, many Festivals, and recently a medal in the European Mixed Pairs Championships, as well as a silver medal in the Senior European Team Championships. But I spend much more time on administration than at the bridge table.

Is being President of the WBF a full-time job?

Unfortunately yes! It is on voluntary basis, but I like to do it properly and the promotion of the game is in my view just as important as the organisation. That is especially important now and, with our aim to become an Olympic discipline, it never ends.

You have a brilliant record in attracting sponsors, and keeping them. What advice would you offer to other bridge organisations that have been less successful?

You are right to mention in the same sentence ‘attracting sponsors and keeping them’. As a matter of fact it is not difficult to attract them, but in order to keep them you have to show respect, and to work for them and give them what they are entitled to get back.

The Olympics: what is the latest news?

We have a strategy and we are following it. This means that we are working to be present in Salt Lake City, even with a single exhibition match, but our aim is really Turin 2006.

I understand that negotiations are taking place between the IOC, FIDE (World Chess Federation) and Australian Chess Federation on chess having a presence at the Sydney Olympics. Will bridge have a presence?

I have heard the same rumours and I asked my Australian friends to enquire. I also met some people from the Sydney Organizing Committee but nobody was able to confirm the rumour. As you know, in chess there are two main organisations which act in competition with each other, FIDE and the Chess PGA led by Garry Kasparov. Perhaps there is something happening with the latter, but we all recognise that bridge and chess have a common destiny.

Mentioning chess, France has recognised it as a sport. What about bridge?

As far as I know both games have the same status with the Ministry of Sports. At the beginning of May, I met the President of the CNOSF (the French National Olympic Committee) and the French Bridge Federation has now sent its application. I strongly believe the FFB will be accepted before the end of the year 2000.

Do you have any news about the next Bermuda Bowl?

We have signed a contract with the Indonesian Bridge Federation to organise in Bali the next Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup and Transnational Open Teams, at the end of October/beginning of November 2001. It will be a marvellous venue and site, and I do not have any reason to doubt that it will be a great success.

As I understand it, you have been very successful in France in developing a schools programme. Can you tell us about this and how it was achieved?

In fact I worked on that with Jean Claude Beineix when he was President of the FFB. We got the support of the Minister of Education and Schools. We got sponsors: BP and Nesquik to cover the expenses of the seminar, to train the teachers, and finally we got the support of the parents and the media. But there is still a lot to do in that field.

In this year’s Generali Masters, a junior event was included. Are there any plans to include a Senior event in the future?
Not at all, for a simple reason: from the beginning we invited the most famous seniors and everybody can still remember the standing ovation given to Giorgio Belladona, and the bronze medals won by Jean Marc Roudinesco and Bobby Wolff. However, as part of our policy towards the Olympics, it was clear that we had to have a Junior event.

**Bridge on television: do you see any way in which it can be done?**

In the past I have shown how to do it. After Geneva, and the Generali, we had edited highlights, which attracted several million viewers. The problem is that it is expensive to make such programmes, and from now on we may have free TV on the Internet with, in a few months time, very good image quality and a very simple method of access on to your TV screen.

We have come a long way in the last ten years, especially in the use of technology. **What further developments do you envisage?**

For more than twenty years I have spent a lot of time on developing technology, especially in communications and our bridge presentations on VuGraph. I am now sure that the Internet revolution will be of great benefit for bridge, because bridge is also the best example of the use of the Internet. Furthermore it opens the field for teaching and learning.

Is there anything you would like to add, or request that be done to promote bridge in any way? **This is very much an open question!**

Of course, you know that development is my passion. As Club President I managed to increase the club members in three years from 90 to 220. As District President, also in three years, from 400 to 1,200. As French Bridge Federation President, in five years from 18,000 to 44,000. As European Bridge League President, in 1987 we numbered 240,000, and 370,000 when I left in 1995. I am convinced that the present stagnant figures are unacceptable, and, in association with the national federations, I want to promote a development programme aimed at youth, though I do not want to neglect adults and older people, who are also of primary importance.

I also have in mind a solidarity programme to start in the year 2002, which will be presented and discussed in Maastricht. Needless to say, many national federations have already benefited from our interaction with the IOC and our advice in promoting our sport.

Thank you, José, it was a pleasure to talk to you.
VUGRAPH

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<td>(Dutch commendation)</td>
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<td>Canada v Denmark (OPEN)</td>
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Whose flags will be raised highest in fourteen days time?

Omar Sharif, representing Egypt

ORANJE BOVEN: de Nederlandse pagina in het Daily Bulletin

Eindelijk is het zo ver: meer dan 2000 bridgers nemen de komende twee weken deel aan de Bridge Olympiade 2000.

Behalve de officiële landenteams die om de Olympische titels (open en vrouwen) gaan strijden, zijn er nog talloze zij-evenementen waarin elke bridger aan zijn trekken kan komen. Kijken naar topspelers of zelf een kaartje leggen, alles is mogelijk in dit mega-evenement.

Ook voor diegenen die als toeschouwer naar Maastricht komen, is uitstekend gezorgd.

In twee vugraphzalen kunt u de verrichtingen van deoppers volgen. In deze 'bridgebioscopen' staan drie schermen opgesteld. Op een scherm zijn de kaartverdelingen te zien, op het tweede scherm ziet u de spelers aan tafel zitten en op het derde scherm worden de resultaten van het betreffende spel in andere wedstrijden getoond. Dit afgewisseld met tussenstanden van alle wedstrijden. Leuker en spannender dan een 'echte' bioscoop.

Commentatoren voorzien elk spel van deskundig en geestig commentaar. In een zaal in het Engels en in de andere in het Nederlands. Met een gezamenlijke capaciteit van bijna 2000 zitplaatsen is er plaats genoeg voor alle geïnteresseerden en supporters.

Het is voor het eerst dat er een aparte zaal is met commentaar in de taal van het organiserende land. Een prima initiatief van de NBB. De Nederlandse toeschouwers kunnen zo nóg makkelijker de wedstrijden volgen.

Dus, vanaf vandaag, op deze plek: ORANJE BOVEN.