

DAILY NEWS



4th IOC GRAND PRIX



SALT LAKE CITY USA *2 to 6 February 2002*

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Bridge in a Winter Wonderland

The eyes of the vast expanse that is the Bridge-playing world are on Salt Lake City as the fourth IOC Grand Prix gets under way tonight.

More than 75 million people are active participants in the greatest of all the mind sports. As a simple comparison, in Chess, only the top two or three players in the world can now compete on an equal footing against the best computer programmes, but in Bridge there is still no sign of anyone producing a program that can approach the capabilities of today's champions.

A brilliant mind is not the only characteristic required for success in Bridge. In the pressure of a major event stamina, fitness, concentration, endurance, coolness under pressure, teamwork and competitive fire, all Olympic virtues, play a part, with many of the top stars using rigorous training schedules for both mind and body. International teams are frequently accompanied by technical and physical trainers, and even sports psychologists.

Like all great sports, Bridge is frequently charged with nerve tingling drama, as those who were in Paris for the most recent edition of the World Bridge Championships will readily testify.

Perhaps the Bridge Gods will provide us with an equally exciting story here in Salt Lake City.



Photograph: Ron Tacchi

Sabine Auken starts her training for Salt Lake City in the most appropriate way

Playing schedule:

Saturday evening:

19.00 – 21.10; 21.30 – 23.10

Sunday, Monday & Tuesday:

14.00 – 15.40; 16.10 – 17.50;
18.20 – 20.00; 21.30 – 23.10

Wednesday:

13.00 – 14.40; 15.10 – 16.50;
17.20 – 19.00

VuGraph Matches:

19.00 - USA v Canada (Men)
21.30 - Canada v USA (Women)



The President's Opening Address

If my job today is a very easy one, it is because I have only to thank you, the players, for coming here to support our actions in seeking entry to the Winter Olympic Games which would be the result of many years of work and effort.

Let me also thank on your behalf and on behalf of the entire world bridge community our great friend Marc Hodler - without his advice, his strong support and help we would never have achieved this step, and it is to him that we owe our presence here in Salt Lake City.

As you all know, this is the fourth time we have held the IOC Grand Prix; the first three editions were staged in Lausanne in the magnificent Olympic Museum. To be here for a few days, just before the Opening Ceremony of the XIXth Winter Olympic Games will, we hope, give us the chance to welcome the IOC members who are to decide later this year, in Mexico, whether or not we deserve to be part of the next Olympic Programme.

If, as we hope, they come to watch, they will at least get a good idea of who we are, and will see that bridge is a genuinely competitive sport, which is good for everyone irrespective of age, religion, sex or race. It is good for education amongst youngsters, good for maintaining the mental and physical health of the elderly, economically good for the winter resorts and has a great following with some 75 million people playing world wide.

I know that I can rely on you to show them that you are leading sportsmen and women, to show them how you compete in a spirit of friendship and competition that accords with the highest ethics and spirit of the Olympic Movement.

Finally, I ask you to join me in thanking Generali, our partner and sponsor for their support for so many years. I wish you all a good stay in Salt Lake City. And I wish good luck to Bridge for its future.

José Damiani, President, World Bridge Federation



Welcome from the President of the ACBL

The American Contract Bridge League is deeply honoured to provide the venue for the fourth Grand Prix Tournament in Salt Lake City. We are pleased to welcome the best bridge players from around the world.

It is a privilege – so to speak – to have the Olympic ideals and torch carried from Lausanne to Salt Lake City. We certainly hope that just as the IOC recognised bridge as a sport, the IOC will find it fitting and just to place our sport in the Olympic Programme.

We know that we face an uphill battle to achieve our aim. At this point we would like to acknowledge the valuable contributions made to our cause by José Damiani, Marc Hodler, Mazhar Jafri and Dan Morse among many others.

I trust that all of you who are participating in this historic event will be able to look back one day and say “Yes, I played in Salt Lake City and showed the world that we are worthy of joining the Olympic Family”.

Let the Olympic spirit of fair play and friendship prevail at these competitions.

George Retek

General Information

The Semi Final and Final will each be 48 boards. The play off will be 24 boards

Line Up during the Round Robin (Men and Women): both teams to line up 10 minutes before the starting time for the match. There are no seating rights.

The first named team sits NS in the Open Room

The Juniors play with 4 teams: North America; Americas; Europe North; Europe South

3 matches of 3 rounds 12-boards each will be played (VP scale for 36 boards). There will then be a 48-board Final between the leading American and the leading Europe Team, and a 48 board play off between the other two teams. These matches will be played simultaneously with the Men's and Women's Semi Final.

Matches:

- 1) North America v Americas
Europe North v Europe South
- 2) Americas v Europe South
Europe North v North America
- 3) Americas v Europe North
Europe South v North America

The first named team has the first choice to be home or visiting in any one of the three rounds. Then the other team chooses to be home or visiting in one of the remaining rounds and the first mentioned team chooses its position for the remaining round.

Norman Kay

Norman Kay, one of the world's leading bridge players for more than five decades, died Jan. 17 at his home in Narberth PA. He was 74. Kay won his first North American championship in 1955 and — 26 championships later — his last in 1997. With Edgar Kaplan, he formed one of the most successful and longest-lasting partnerships, spanning more than 40 years. It was ended only by Kaplan's death in 1997.

Kay finished second in the Bermuda Bowl twice and had a second and third in the World Olympiad Teams. He was a WBF Life Master and an ACBL Grand Life Master. Kay was elected to the ACBL Bridge Hall of Fame in 1996 and was ACBL's 2001 Honorary Member of the Year.

Programme for Today

Mens Teams Match 1

Table No

1	Australia	v	Egypt
2	USA	v	Canada
3	India	v	Brazil
4	Indonesia	v	Italy
5	Norway	v	Poland

Mens Teams Match 2

Table No

1	Norway	v	Australia
2	Egypt	v	USA
3	Canada	v	India
4	Brazil	v	Indonesia
5	Italy	v	Poland

Women's Teams Match 1

Table No

6	Netherlands	v	France
7	China	v	Japan
8	Great Britain	v	Canada
9	USA	v	Austria
10	South Africa	v	Germany

Women's Teams Match 2

Table No

6	South Africa	v	Netherlands
7	France	v	China
8	Japan	v	Great Britain
9	Canada	v	USA
10	Austria	v	Germany

Junior Teams Match 1, Rounds 1 & 2

Table No

11	North America	v	Americas
12	Europe North	v	Europe South

Bridge Has No Frontiers

Earlier this week, the London Bridge Centre, home of Bridge Magazine, received a request for bridge equipment from The British Embassy BFPO 5052. There was an error on the order form so your Editor rang the telephone number provided. The voice at the other end advised that 'Lines to Afghanistan are temporarily unavailable'.

4th IOC Grand Prix, Salt Lake City USA, 2 to 6 February 2002

Superstars grace 4th IOC Grand Prix

Many of the world's top bridge players have made their way to Salt Lake City to participate in the 4th IOC Grand Prix, perhaps the most important of the exhibitions since they were inaugurated in 1998 by the World Bridge Federation and the International Olympic Committee. The first three Grand Prix events were played in Lausanne, Switzerland.

The roster of the contestants in Salt Lake City reads like a bridge hall of fame, with more than a few current or former world champions set to compete in the Grand Prix, which starts today with round-robin matches.

Some of the players have traveled more than a day to make it to Utah for the special event, expected to be a significant effort to promote the game of bridge in a unique way. It took players from South Africa 33 hours of travel to get to Salt Lake City.

Many of the players – men, women and juniors — have stood on the podium at world championships to have gold medals placed around their necks, with more than two dozen of them present here.

One of the former champs, Bob Hamman, has been ranked No. 1 by the WBF since 1985. He will be playing in the Grand Prix with two teammates from Bermuda Bowl championships in 1995 and 2000.

Among the current champions competing in the Grand Prix is Rose Meltzer, who last fall became the first woman to win the Bermuda Bowl. Her victory occurred at the world championships in Paris.

Two of Norway's brightest stars, Geir Helgemo and Tor Helness, were disappointed to be runners-up to Meltzer in Paris, but they recently won the Cap Gemini World Top tournament in the Netherlands for the third time, an unprecedented feat. They would be on anyone's list of the top pairs in the world.

For the first time since its inception, the Grand Prix will divide the contestants by sex, with men's and women's competitions, rather than open and women's. The Grand Prix will also offer a match of Junior players for the first time.

The newly formed United States Bridge Federation has assisted in assembling the North American teams for the Grand Prix.

The 7th NEC Bridge Festival

Bridge is one of the most popular and active sports on the planet with major events taking place in every corner of the world throughout the year. Some of the players competing in the IOC Grand Prix have had to make a dash from Japan to be here in time for the Opening Ceremony! They were competing in the NEC Cup in Yokohama. An exciting final saw **England** – Brian Senior, John Armstrong, David Burn, Brian Callaghan – score a come back victory over **Canada** – Jurek Czyzowicz, Darren Wolpert, Kamel Fergani, Nicolas L'Ecuyer.

This was how the match unfolded:

Team	1-16	17-32	33-48	49-64	Total
ENGLAND	29	35	36	38	138
CANADA	48	39	23	22	132