



DAILY NEWS

4th IOC GRAND PRIX

SALT LAKE CITY USA *2 to 6 February 2002*



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Maple Leaf Forever



In one of the best played and most exciting finals of recent years, **Canada**, represented by:

Keith Balcombe, Gordon Campbell, Nicholas Gartaganis, Fred Gitelman, Peter Jones and Joseph Silver defeated **Poland's** Cezary Balicki, Michal Kwiecen, Jacek Poletylo, Jacek Pszczola, Marek Wojciki and Adam Zmudzinski, Alicja Kornasiewicz, (Captain) to win the fourth IOC Grand Prix for the Generali Trophy.

Italy easily won the third place play-off against **Norway**.

Thank Heaven For Little Girls

A brilliant display saw **France**, Véronique Bessis, Bénédicte Cronier, Catherine D'Ovidio and Sylvie Willard score an emphatic victory over **USA**, represented by Mildred Breed, Amalya Kearse, Jill Meyers, Sharon Osberg, Shawn Quinn, Kerri Sanborn, Rose Meltzer and Peter Weichsel (Coach).



Third place went to **The Netherlands**, who defeated **Germany**.

United We Stand

In the Junior Teams **Americas**, Augustin Madala & Carlos Pellegrini, Joel Wooldridge & John Hurd tied with **Europe North**, Bas Drijver & Sjoert Brink Andreas Marquardsen & Martin Schaltz.

North America took third place by defeating **Europe South**

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Farewell Address from the President of the World Bridge Federation José Damiani

Now that the 4th IOC Grand Prix is over, it is again my pleasure to thank you all, the players, for your participation. I hope you will go home feeling good and bearing in mind what **Pierre de Coubertin** said – “*The important thing is not winning but taking part*” and even though many of you did not reach the final stage, I hope that it was still a great tournament for you all.

It was, for us, a superb opportunity to meet many members of the International Olympic Committee who honoured us by visiting the Tournament. On behalf of the whole Bridge Community I warmly thank all of them and hope that from now on we will have an even more friendly relationship.

For our own part, we have the impression that we have once more done our duty towards you the players and towards the National Bridge Federations. It is, of course, too early to reach any conclusions but I can assure you that we will follow up very carefully our destiny both inside and outside the Olympic movement.

I believe that this event, and therefore bridge, has obtained tremendous press coverage, not only here in America, where I think it hasn't happened for at least the past 20 years, but also in many other countries, who have sent their television reporters and journalists. As usual this has been achieved through the excellent co-operation of our staff and colleagues ... let us applaud them for their sterling efforts ...

To **Bruce Keidan**, our Media Relations Liaison Officer ... To **Paul Bernhardt**, our Salt Lake City Liaison, and his great team of volunteers – please, all of you, stand up and wave so that we can see you and thank you.

The scoring was done by **Harvey Fox**, enabling **Mark Horton** and **Brent Manley** to provide you with results and reading material in the form of the Daily Bulletins. **George Georgopoulos** ensured that all the information went up on the Internet for the rest of the world to enjoy while our IT Manager **Mark Newton** kept the computers and network running as well as undertaking many hours of photocopying! **Christine** and **Anna** worked tirelessly both before and during the event to ensure your comfort

E-Bridge has been providing the outside world with VuGraph coverage, but here at the tournament our own Bridge Vision Team of **Elisabeth Antelme**, **Jean-Francois Chevalier** and **Valentine Djian**, with the Video team of **Bernard Delange**, **Paul Binisti** and **Bernadette Pasquier** from **Zoomscope** have ensured the smooth running of the excellent VuGraph presentation enabling you to enjoy the entertaining commentary provided by **Eric Kokish** and **Barry Rigal**.

The smooth running of a tournament is dependant on many people, and in the playing rooms our Tournament Directors, **Bill Schoder** and **Claude Dadoun** reign supreme, with the entire event being staged under the watchful eye of our Operations Director **Ton Kooijman**.

We thank you all – everyone who came here to help us in whatever capacity - for your hard work and dedication.

It is the right time now to extend our congratulations to the winners and medalists who deserve our applause for their excellent performance. I look forward to seeing you around the world somewhere very soon – and especially at our next World Championships in Montreal. But for now, I wish you all a safe journey home ... thank you all ...

Final Results

Mens Teams - Final

Team	c/f	Set 1	Set 2	Set 3	Set 4	Total
Canada	0	13	44	9	10	76
Poland	2.5	7	0	39	16	64.5

Women's Teams - Final

Team	c/f	Set 1	Set 2	Set 3	Set 4	Total
France	10	38	32	41	52	173
USA	0	15	28	20	17	80

Junior Teams - Final

Team	c/f	Set 1	Set 2	Set 3	Set 4	Total
Europe - North	0	23	27	50	35	135
Americas	10	56	23	32	14	135

Mens Teams - Play Off

Team	c/f	Set 1	Set 2	Total
Italy	0	38	57	95
Norway	3	11	15	29

Women's Teams - Play Off

Team	c/f	Set 1	Set 2	Total
Netherlands	0	29	38	67
Germany	1.5	8	12	21.5

Junior Teams - Play Off

Team	c/f	Set 1	Set 2	Set 3	Set 4	Total
Europe - South	6	37	44	24	15	126
North America	0	56	6	37	30	129

Closing Address from George Retek President, ACBL

On behalf of the American Contract Bridge League, I wish to express our deep appreciation to the World Bridge Federation and especially to its President, **José Damiani**, for organising and conducting the 4th Grand Prix Tournament here in Salt Lake City. This was an exceptional occasion for the best bridge players from around the world to compete just prior to the 2002 Winter Olympic Games.

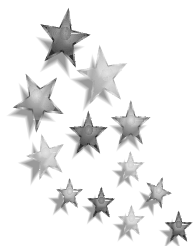
In addition to thanking all the participants here, a very special note of congratulation is due to the teams reaching the final: **France** and **USA** in the Women's Teams, **Canada** and **Poland** in the Men's Teams and the combined **Americas** and **Europe North** in the Junior Event.

The slogan of these Olympic Games is "**Light the Fire Within**". Our bridge players have shown with their skill and determination at the Grand Prix that this Olympic motto already exists in our sport.

Bridge Dominates World News

Thanks to the efforts of a number of people, not least **Bruce Keidan**, the media coordinator here in Salt Lake City, Bridge has been making headlines all over the world. Major newspapers to feature articles include **The Wall Street Journal**, **La Presse** (Montreal), **The Daily Telegraph** (London), **The Times** (London) and the **Salt Lake City Tribune**. Major television networks from all over the world have been interviewing the stars – crews from **NBC** – The Today Show, **Trans world Sports**, **ARD** (Germany) **Norwegian** and **Dutch TV**. NBC affiliates in Salt Lake City, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, Denver and New York City have carried programmes. Network radio stations to have carried programmes include the **BBC**, **The Sporting News** and **National Public Radio**. We wish we had the space to mention them all!

Here in Salt Lake City the Great Britain team will attend a reception tonight for all the British athletes taking part in the Games.



Meet the Stars!

Norway's Team for Salt Lake City is:

TOR HELNESS (b 1957) of Oslo, stockbroker, "Grand old man" of the successful Norwegian team. Married with Gunn (has also represented internationally for Norway). Two sons Jonas (15) and Fredrik (11), both with great interest in bridge

Tor's merits are : Bermuda Bowl: Silver in France 2001 and Chile 1993, bronze in 1997 and 4th in 1999.

European championships: Silver 2001, bronze 1993, 1997 and 1999.

He has also won several prestigious invitational events with Geir Helgemo.

GEIR HELGEMO (b 1970) of Trondheim, bridge professional, runs a daily column in Norway's biggest newspaper "Verdens Gang".

Geir's merits: World Individual Champion in Paris, France, 1995.

Several North American titles and the same results as Tor in Bermuda Bowls and European championships. Several national triumphs.

Co-author of several bridge books.

GLENN GROETHEIM (b 1959) of Trondheim, Engineer working as an electricity broker. Married to Vigdis, two sons Sindre (11) and Frode (13). Frode is playing bridge.

Glenn's merits: Two silver medals in Bermuda Bowl (1993 and 2001), bronze in 1997.

European championships: Silver 2001, bronze 1987, 1993 and 1997.

European champion junior 1980, several national triumphs.

Glenn is founder and author of the system Viking Precision Club, a relay precision system which is available on net : www.vikingclub.net

TERJEAA (b 1961) of Trondheim. Post office employee, married with Kristin, two daughters Hanne (11) and Ingrid (9).

Partnership with Glenn since 1993.

Terje's merits: Two silver in Bermuda Bowl 1993 and

2001, bronze in 1997.

European championships: Silver 2001, bronze 1993 and 1997.

JON EGIL FURUNES (b 1957) of Oslo, mathematician.

Regular partner with Tor in Norway.

Some of Jon Egil's (nickname Turbo) merits :

4th in Bermuda Bowl 1999, bronze in European championships 1999.

He has won 4 Norwegian championships.

PER ERIK AUSTBERG (b 1968) of Trondheim, economist.

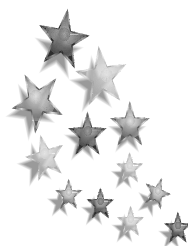
Per Erik (nickname Pil) has one daughter Ida Marie (6)

Pil's merits : 4th in Bermuda Bowl in Bermuda 1999.

Bronze in European championships 1999.

He has won 4 Norwegian championships with Geir Helgemo.

Regular partner with Geir Helgemo in Norway.



Meet the Stars!

Denmark's Juniors

Andreas Marquardsen, or "Don Andreas", aged 24 in December 2001, will qualify as a school teacher in two years' time. According to his partner, he already practises teaching a lot at the bridge table. As if that is not enough, Andreas is the manager of a bridge centre where he also teaches bridge - primarily to young players.

Martin Schaltz, or "Benno" (short for Benjamin), aged just 18 in January 2002, is studying in a higher commercial school. He is one of our greatest bridge talents ever - Martin is expected to win even more Championships than his famous parents, Dorthe and Peter. Just like his partner, Martin teaches bridge to youngsters.

The two of them have been playing together for a couple of years and are already used to being very well placed in open as well as in junior tournaments.



France Power Past The Netherlands



The French Women's team had performed heroics in the Round Robin stage of the competition, moving from last to first over the nine rounds. After two sessions of their semi-final they enjoyed a 12 IMP lead over The Netherlands. The third session proved to be decisive.

Dealer South. East/West Vul

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Willard</i>	<i>Pasman</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Simons</i>
Pass	2NT*	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	3♥

West led the five of spades and declarer put up the queen, covered by the king and ace. The queen of diamonds lost to the king and East returned a spade. Declarer won in dummy and ran the jack of diamonds, discarding a heart from hand. She still had to lose a trump, a heart and a club, two down, -100.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Van der Pas</i>	<i>D'Ovidio</i>	<i>Vriend</i>	<i>Bessis</i>
Pass	INT*	2♥	1♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	Pass
All Pass			4♠

North/South can collect an easy 500 from Two Hearts, but in the present era it is very difficult to make a low level double that is penalty oriented. West led the ten of hearts and East took the ace. A red suit continuation will defeat the game, but the cunning switch to the four of spades put declarer in with

a chance. She won the trick with dummy's jack and played a diamond (playing a low spade first and then the queen of diamonds leaves the defenders without recourse). East could have saved the day by going up with the king of diamonds and playing the king of spades, but that was a difficult play to find and when she played low the queen forced out the ace. Declarer had to lose a club, but that was all, as there was no trump loser and the ruffing diamond finesse was a winner. +420 and a big swing to France.

Dealer North. North/South Vul

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Willard</i>	<i>Pasman</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Simons</i>
2♣	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	Dble	2♥	2♠
Pass	4♠	5♣	Dble
	5♠	All Pass	

Was North wrong to pull the double? It was certainly wrong in practice, as Five Spades had no play at all. West led the four of clubs and declarer finished one down, minus 100.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Van der Pas</i>	<i>D'Ovidio</i>	<i>Vriend</i>	<i>Bessis</i>
1♣	Pass	Pass	Pass
4♣	1♠	3♣	3♠
All Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠

East led the seven of hearts, and when West put up the ace, North dropped the queen, which may have been a

mistake. After some thought Van der Pas switched to the king of diamonds and had saved the day, as the defenders took the next three tricks. Well done!

Dealer East. East/West Vul

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Willard</i>	<i>Pasman</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Simons</i>
		1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♠	All Pass

You would obviously like to play the East/West cards in Four Hearts, but how should you get there?

South led the six of hearts and North won with the king and played a club. South took the ace and returned the suit. Eleven tricks are possible now, but declarer played safely for ten, ruffing one diamond in dummy and giving up a diamond at the end, +620.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Van der Pas</i>	<i>D'Ovidio</i>	<i>Vriend</i>	<i>Bessis</i>
		1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	All Pass

For my money Four Hearts suggests that you are not interested in partner's suits, but the final contract was the same, as was the opening lead. North won with the ace and switched to the eight of spades. Declarer won in hand with the ten, ruffed a diamond and played the queen of hearts. (The king of clubs is a plausible alternative). When North declined to cover the obvious thing to do is discard the jack of clubs and declarer had almost detached that card from her hand when she changed her mind and preferred a diamond. South could ruff, and the defenders still had to come to a club and a diamond for one down. -100 and another double figure swing to France.

Dealer South. All Vul

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Willard</i>	<i>Pasman</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Simons</i>
			1♣
Dble	1♠	2♥	2♠
All Pass			

Two Spades was a simple affair and declarer emerged with eleven tricks, +200.

Open Room

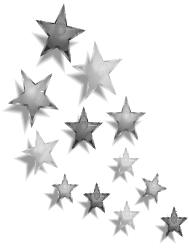
West	North	East	South
<i>Van der Pas</i>	<i>D'Ovidio</i>	<i>Vriend</i>	<i>Bessis</i>
			1♣
Dble	1♠	2♥	2♠
3♥	4♠	All Pass	

Joey Silver was at the commentators table when this deal came up and he pointed out that the Meckwell approach is to bid game when you have a nine card fit. It was certainly the right thing to do this time and declarer did not find it difficult to arrive at the same number of tricks as her counterpart at the other table. However, there was a significant difference in the score, +650 and the lead was up to 50 IMPs.

France had put the match out of reach.

French Juniors

The French Junior players would like to thank **Société Générale** for their sponsorship



Meet the Stars !

The Polish Men's Team

He was born in 1958, and like so many bridge stars was a talented chess player who has now become a professional bridge player. He was chief editor and publisher of the Polish bridge magazine "Forum" for a couple of years.

Cezary Balicki's list of international championship medals is impressive. He started with a bronze in the World Pairs Championship in Geneva in 1990. That was followed by silver in the 1991 Bermuda Bowl in Yokohama 1991, and again in the Rosenblum in Albuquerque in 1994. He finally got his hands on a World title by taking the Gold medal in the 2nd Transnational World Teams in Bermuda 2000. He is a regular on the North American scene and captured the 1997 Spingold and 2001 Vanderbilt trophies, while losing the 1998 Spingold final to Nick Nickell's team by only 1 IMP. He has been no less successful in Europe, with two gold medals in the European Teams Championships, in Turku in 1989 and Menton in 1993. His European set is completed by a silver medal in Montecatini in 1997 and a bronze in Killarney in 1991. He won the prestigious Macallan Pairs in London in 1994 and finished third in the same event a year later.

He was born on the first of March 1957, is an automotive engineer and businessman from Lublin. Married with two daughters, he plays for a bridge club in Leszno - Unia Winkhaus. **Michal Kwiecien's** biggest bridge successes include first place in the World Open Pairs Championship at Lille in 1998, second place in the European Open Teams Championship at Montecatini in 1997, third place in the World Transnational Open Teams at Hammamet in 1997, all of them with Jacek Pszczola. He also won gold in the European Junior Teams Championship at Salsomaggiore in 1982 with his former partner Marek Wojcicki. He has been playing with Jacek Pszczola since 1993, and the pair finished at the top of a world-class field in the 2001 Cavendish Calcutta in Las Vegas.

In Maastricht in 2000 Michal was chosen by random selection for a doping test. He says he was so anxious that he was not able to provide a sample for four hours, despite drinking several litres of water. He described it as the most stressful moment of the Olympiad for him.

He sometimes referred to by Western journalists as 'Pepsi Cola' is one of the younger generation of Polish bridge wizards, having been born on the tenth of January, 1967. Married with one son and living in Lublin, **Jacek Pszczola** graduated as a mining machine engineer, and now works in the oil industry. He represents the Unia Winkhaus Bridge club in Leszno. When he is not playing bridge you will find him on the basketball court.

A former Polish Junior Champion, he won the World Open Pairs Championship at Lille in 1998, finished second in the European Open Teams Championship at Montecatini in 1997, and took third place in the World Transnational Open Teams at Hammamet in the same year. He also won the prestigious Polish bridge event, Festival Solidarnosci, in Slupsk, 1995. Jacek has partnered Michal Kwiecien for seven years and together they topped a star-studded field in Las Vegas in the 2001 Cavendish Calcutta.

He is the regular partner of the player we featured first, Cezary Balicki. Born in 1956, he comes from a musical family. His father was a famous Polish composer and conductor. **Adam Zmudzinski** is himself a talented pianist and lists classical music as his hobby, alongside motor sports. His grandfather taught him to play bridge when he was five years old. He is attracted by the dynamic possibilities within the game and considers the most difficult aspect to be making good decisions. His partner must have excellent technical skills and good manners.

Adam's list of bridge medals is impressive. He started with a bronze medal in the World Pairs Championship in Geneva in 1990. That was followed by silver in the 1991 Bermuda Bowl in Yokohama 1991 and silver again in the Rosenblum in Albuquerque in 1994. He finally got his hands on a World title by taking the gold medal; in the 2nd Transnational World Teams in Bermuda 2000.

Marek Wojcicki was born in 1957. A chemical engineer, he now manager of a manufacturing company, as well as being a bridge journalist and author. He is married, with a daughter 19, and a son 17. His main hobby is volleyball. He has been playing bridge since 1970, in competitions since 1973.

His main achievements include a Junior European title in 1982, numerous national titles and several big

International wins most recently in the Spring Foursomes in England in 2001.

Jacek Poletylo was born in 1951. He graduated as M.Sc. of physics, and is now chairman of a manufacturing company. He is married, with a son Maciej 24.

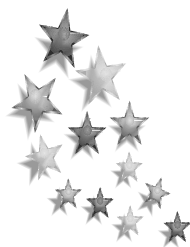
His hobbies are basketball and good food. He has been

playing bridge since 1970. His main achievements - three times champion of Poland, winner of the Easter Guardian Pairs in London, Philip Morris Pairs in Monte Carlo, teams tournaments - Spring Foursomes in England in 2001.

He represented Lichtenstein in the Bridge Olympiad in Salsomaggiore in 1992.



Meet the Stars !



It is time to introduce the USA Women's Team ...

Mildred Breed – Lives in Bryan, Texas, a college town west of Houston. She first learned bridge at the age of 15. She is a former purchasing agent for a steel fabricator, but now teaches bridge on the Internet. She has two daughters, Monica, in her 30s, and Rhiannon, a teenager. Mildred has won six North American championships and two world titles – the Venice Cup in Hammamet, Tunisia, in 1997 and the Olympiad Women's Teams in Maastricht, Netherlands, in 2000.

Amalya Kears – Grew up in New Jersey and earned a degree in philosophy from Wellesley College in the Boston area. Earned a law degree from the University of Michigan and worked in a Wall Street law firm. Since 1979, has served as a judge on the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. A highly successful bridge player, Amalya has written, translated and edited books on bridge, including perhaps the most comprehensive work available on conventions. As a Wellesley senior, she won the traditional hoop rolling race.

Jill Meyers – Formerly No. 1 ranked woman by the WBF. Lives in Santa Monica, California, and works as an attorney in the music business. Due to become a media star after interviews on the *Today Show* air shortly after the IOC Grand Prix ends. Winner of four world championships – two Venice Cups, Mixed Teams and Women's Pairs. She also has a second in the Venice Cup. Her favorite win, however, was in the Blue Ribbon Pairs with John Mohan. Besides that one, she has lots of North American championships.

Sharon Osberg – A bank executive who lives in San Francisco. Has frequently played with financier Warren Buffett, honorary npc for the USA men's team in the IOC Grand Prix. Sharon has won two Venice Cups and has four North American titles to her credit.

Shawn Quinn – Lives in Katy, a suburb of Houston. She currently works as the site manager for winBridge, an online bridge site. She began playing in 1981, "to do something with my mother." She plays a lot with husband Joe when she is not playing on women's teams. Regular partner is Mildred Breed. Since the early Nineties, Shawn has won nearly a dozen North American championships. Won the World Women's Pairs in 1998 and consecutive Olympiad Women's Teams in 1996 and 2000. No. 1 in WBF women's rankings.

Kerri Sanborn – Stock trader who lives in New York City. Formerly a bridge professional, now involved in thoroughbred breeding and racing. Won the World Mixed Pairs in 1978 by a huge margin playing with Barry Crane. Winner of the Venice Cup in 1989 and 1993 and the World Women's Pairs in 1990. Was the leading ACBL masterpoint winner in 1974 and has numerous North American titles.

Rose Meltzer – Lives in Los Gatos, California. She has emerged from virtual obscurity only a few years ago to become one of the most recognizable personalities in bridge worldwide. Playing with Kyle Larsen and Peter Weichsel, Rose has won several major team championships in ACBL tournaments. Her crowning achievement occurred in Paris last fall, when her team came from behind against Norway to win the Bermuda Bowl. She thus became the first woman to win that event. Serving as playing captain of her team in the IOC Grand Prix.

Slammed in Salt Lake

With three deals to go in their semi-final match with Italy, the gallant Canadian team, which had trailed by more than 40 IMPs to the world champion Italian squad, found themselves behind by a single IMP. The tide turned on the 10th board of the set, propelling Canada into the final of the 4th IOC Grand Prix against Poland.

Fred Gitelman and Joe Silver were the heroes on two decisive deals late in the match. Ironically, it wasn't until the match was over that Gitelman realized he wasn't actually the goat.

Dealer East. E/W vul

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

West <i>Gitelman</i>	North <i>Duboin</i>	East <i>Silver</i>	South <i>Ferraro</i>
4♠	5♣	1♠	4♣
6♠	All Pass	5♠	Pass

In the closed room, Lorenzo Lauria and Alfredo Versace stopped in game, so Canada had a chance for a major swing, and Gitelman was up to the task. In the highly competitive auction, Gitelman had confidence in his partner. "I knew he wouldn't bid 5♠ unless he thought he could make it," Gitelman said. "If he thought he could make 5♠, I thought he could make six."

Gitelman was correct, and plus 1430 put the Canadians ahead by 12 with two deals to go.

As it happened, the set of deals was a wild one, and the action was not over.

On the next deal, Lauria and Versace bid to a club slam, so the match was in the balance. Would Gitelman and

Silver be up to the challenge?

Dealer South. Both vul

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

West <i>Gitelman</i>	North <i>Duboin</i>	East <i>Silver</i>	South <i>Ferraro</i>
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	6♣	All Pass

Gitelman's 3♦ bid may look strange, but there was method to his, you might say, imaginative call. Gitelman can explain: "I knew that if I cuebid 4♥, my partner would not be able to cuebid spades, so I psyched the diamond cuebid."

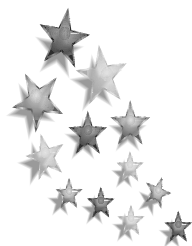
Ferraro led the ♦A and Fred put down the dummy, noting that his partner did not thank him for the 13 cards lying on the table in front of him. Very quickly, Silver was claiming, and Gitelman feared the worst – that Silver was claiming for down one.

"I thought we might have won it on the previous board," Gitelman said, "but then I thought we had lost it on that board."

In fact, it wasn't until the match was over and the team was making comparisons that Gitelman became aware that Silver had actually claimed twelve tricks, not eleven.

The final board was flat – Italy gained 1 IMP – and Canada had pulled a huge upset, knocking off the defending Olympiad champions, who had been having their way with the field in Salt Lake City.

Meet the Stars !



We introduce you to the Canadian Men's Team -

Silver, "Joey" Joseph

of Montreal, Canada. (b.1941). Joey was born and lives in Montreal Quebec. He is a criminal attorney who acts for the defence. Joey started playing bridge when he was 17 at summer camp and fell in love with it. Since then, bridge has been his number one priority. Joey has represented Canada in 1994, 1995, 1997, 1998 coming second in the Bermuda Bowl in 1995. Gitelman and Silver play no conventions and were able to fill in the WBF convention card in 30 minutes.

Gitelman, Fred Alan

was born and lives in Toronto with his partner Sheri Winestock but is unfortunately planning to move to Florida soon. Fred is celebrating his 37th birthday today. He has a strong background in both computer science and bridge. Fred has won silver medals many times. He was second in the World Juniors in 1991, second in the Bermuda Bowl in 1995, second in the Spingold in 2000 and also won the Silver Medal in the 1997 Maccabiah Games. However, Fred changed the trend when he won the Reisinger in 2001. Fred plays bridge with both Bill Gates and Warren Buffett. He credits a lot of his success as a bridge player to his friend and partner Joey Silver.

Gartaganis, Nicholas

Nick is married to Judy (who played on the Canadian women's team here) and lives in Calgary, Alberta. He is a competitive intelligence analyst for investment attraction with the Alberta government. He first won the Canadian National Team Championships in 1982 and 19 years later won again in 2001. Although Nick now frequently plays with his wife Judy he has had a regular partnership with Peter Jones for 16 years. How can a husband and wife play so successfully? Judy says that Nick is the one in the partnership that makes sure that they don't go to bed angry – just very late, maybe.

Balcombe, Keith

Keith who is 47 immigrated from England in 1968 and now lives in Oshawa, Ontario. He is a materials manager. He has been married for 20 years and is very proud of his 3 grandchildren. Although it took Keith until 2000 to win the Canadian National Team Championships he was runner-up in 1980, 1983 and 1998 and remembers fondly his 1983 loss to Gord Campbell. He and Gord have more than 400 pages of system notes.

Keith's favourite non-bridge books are the Lord of the Rings trilogy.

Campbell, Gordon

Gord is 50, lives in Alberta and describes himself as a 'computer person'. Gord immigrated to Canada from England in 1975 and had been the British Junior Chess champion. He played in Sao Paulo in 1984 on the first Canadian team to take part in a Bermuda Bowl. It should be mentioned that he and Keith managed to compile their 400 pages of system notes in only one year despite being a long distance partnership.

Jones, Peter

Peter was born in England in 1948. He now lives in Edmonton, Alberta with his wife Lloyd. Nick and Peter are a long established partnership and Nick is Peter's favourite partner when Nick is not playing with his wife Judy. Peter is a communications facilitator for RedCor, a construction company. He too loves high stakes rubber bridge and is a firm believer in keeping bridge simple. Peter and Lloyd are so hospitable that their house in Edmonton is known as Chez Jones because of all the out-of-towners who stay there when they are in Edmonton.



Canadian Shutout



Few observers would have picked Canada to defeat Italy in the semi-final round of the 4th IOC Grand Prix, but the underdogs rallied for an exciting victory Tuesday night. Not content with one surprise victory, the Canadians were hard at work on another in the second set of the final against the favored team from Poland. Not only was Canada winning – they were thrashing the strong Polish team. Canada won the second set 44-0 to lead by 46.5 IMPs at the halfway point.

The first deal was a missed opportunity for Poland.

Dealer South. Both vul

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

In the closed room, Jacek Pszczola played in 2♠, making eight tricks for plus 110. In the open room, Zmudzinski found himself in a vulnerable game that, despite bad breaks, had plays.

West	North	East	South
<i>Gitelman</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Zmudzinski</i>
	1♣	1♠	Dble
Pass	2♠	Dble	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Fred Gitelman led the ♠J, and Silver played the 10, suit preference for diamonds, and Gitelman obliged. Zmudzinski put in dummy's ♦Q and Silver won the king. He then cashed the ♠A and continued with the ♠Q, forcing dummy to ruff. Zmudzinski cashed the ♥A, getting the bad news in trumps, and continued with the ♥J. Looking at all the cards, one can see that the winning line is to play a diamond to the 9, cash hearts, pitching the ♦A and clubs, then the ♦J. East will be squeezed in the black suits on the play of the ♦J. Declarer would hold the ♠7 and ♣4 in his hand, while dummy would be down to the ♣A Q. East would be holding the ♠K and the ♣K 7 with no good discard.

Zmudzinski, however, apparently decided early in the play

that Gitelman was more likely to hold the ♣K, so after picking up trumps he played a club to dummy's queen. Silver won the king and had a spade to cash for two down and 3 IMPs to Canada instead of 12 to Poland.

Gitelman played expertly on this deal to help his team to a major swing.

Dealer West. E/W vul

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Kwiecen</i>	<i>Gartaganis</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Jones</i>
1♣	1♥	1♠	2♣
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♥
Dble	All Pass		

This must have been scary for Michal Kwiecen and Pszczola – scoring only five tricks against the heart partial by Nick Gartaganis. Still, the Poles prevailed and scored plus 100. At the other table, Gitelman and Joe Silver found their way to a vulnerable game. All Gitelman had to do was make it.

West	North	East	South
<i>Gitelman</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Zmudzinski</i>
1♣	2♥	Dble	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Cezary Balicki led the ♦6, and Gitelman studied the dummy for a long time before starting to play. Eventually, he played low, and won Zmudzinski's ♦J with the ace. Gitelman then cashed the ♥A, ruffed a heart and played a spade to his king and Balicki's ace. Balicki exited with his ♠10 to Gitelman's queen. Gitelman then ruffed his last heart and played a low diamond from dummy. Zmudzinski won the ♦Q and played a fourth round of hearts, but Gitelman was able to ruff, draw the last trump and claim, giving up only the ♣A from there.

That was plus 620 and 11 IMPs to Canada.

Just as Italy had suffered on slam swings against Canada, so did the Poles. The final two deals of the set represented major setbacks for Poland.

Dealer South. Both vul

		♠ Q 7	
		♥ J 4	
		♦ A K 7 4	
		♣ Q 9 8 6 5	
♠ K J 8 6 5 4		♠ 9 3 2	
♥ Q 6 5 2		♥ 10	
♦ 3 2		♦ J 9 8 6	
♣ 10		♣ K 7 4 3 2	
	♠ A 10		
	♥ A K 9 8 7 3		
	♦ Q 10 5		
	♣ A J		
West	North	East	South
Kwiecen	Gartaganis	Pszczola	Jones
1♠	Dble	2♠	4♥
All Pass			

With his good spots and the fall of East's ♥10, Peter Jones had no trouble taking 12 tricks for plus 680. Would Poland be able to engineer a slam swing of their own? It turned out that the answer was yes, but not in the way that they wanted.

West	North	East	South
Gitelman	Balicki	Silver	Zmudzinski
2♠	3♠	Pass	4♥
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

Zmudzinski's 1♣ opener was Polish, meaning it could be a minimum balanced hand or any of a wide variety of strong, unbalanced hands. It appeared that, after the 3♠ cuebid, South was to bid 3NT with a minimum and a spade stopper. Zmudzinski's 4♥ bid, therefore, showed a strong hand. The way the auction developed might have worked out all right for Poland were it not for the terrible break in clubs. Still, it seems that Gitelman's 2♠ bid completely derailed North-South in auction.

Gitelman started with a low diamond to the jack and queen. Zmudzinski cashed the ♣A and followed with the jack, ducked by Silver. Now Zmudzinski was forced to use a diamond entry to dummy to drive out the ♣K. Silver won the third round of clubs and played the ♥10. Zmudzinski took the ♥A and, preparatory to squeezing West in the majors, cashed the ♠A, before going to dummy again with a diamond. Had that suit been 3-3,

Gitelman would indeed have been squeezed in the majors, but Zmudzinski didn't have enough tricks. In the end, because he had failed to unblock the ♥J earlier, Zmudzinski could not endplay Gitelman for down one by exiting with dummy's ♠Q. He had to settle for minus 200 and a 13-IMP loss.

Looking at all four hands of the last deal, one can see that there is no slam available. Nevertheless, slam was bid and made at four of the eight tables in play (once doubled), including Canada and Poland on Vugraph.

Dealer West. None vul

		♠ A J 9 8 7 4 3	
		♥ 8 5	
		♦ —	
		♣ Q 8 6 3	
♠ K		♠ Q 10 2	
♥ K 10 7		♥ A J	
♦ Q 9 8 3 2		♦ A K 10 7 6 5 4	
♣ K 9 7 5		♣ 2	
	♠ 6 5		
	♥ Q 9 6 4 3 2		
	♦ J		
	♣ A J 10 4		
West	North	East	South
Kwiecen	Gartaganis	Pszczola	Jones
Pass	3♠	3NT	Pass
4NT	All Pass		

Pszczola finished with 11 tricks and plus 460.

West	North	East	South
Gitelman	Balicki	Silver	Zmudzinski
Pass	4♠	5♦	5♠
6♦	All Pass		

With one board to play, Poland had not scored an IMP in the set. Balicki's aggressive 4♠ bid put his team in position to at least break the shutout. 5♠ doubled would have gone for minus 500, but one cannot blame Gitelman for bidding on. His ♠K was worthless, but the rest of his hand was potentially very useful to his partner.

Zmudzinski started with the ♠5 (leading low from doubletons) to the king and ace, and Balicki had to figure out the best chance to defeat the contract, if indeed it could be defeated. Perhaps it did not occur to Balicki that the slam could be beaten, for he took only a moment to continue with the ♥5. Silver claimed at that point – his losing club would go on one of dummy's hearts – the 10 if South covered East's jack, the king if he didn't.

The 10-IMP gain was fitting punctuation to a rousing set by the upstart Canadians.