



Welcome Address from the President of the World Bridge Federation Mr José Damiani

President Kennedy used to say that he did not have to wonder what his country could do for him, but rather what he could do for his country.

To be honest, Corsica has done a great deal for me, and I am very pleased to have the chance to do what I can for this island that I love so much.

On the other hand, bridge has also done a great deal for me, and I feel that I am doing my best for Bridge.

That is the reason why we are all here today in Ajaccio. I thought that the Generali Masters was a marvellous opportunity for my friends, the players, to discover the beauty of this island.

I hope that you will all enjoy your stay at the event, with the warm hospitality you have already been receiving from the Corsican people, and especially from Dr Marc Marcangeli, the Mayor of Ajaccio, whom I want to thank on your behalf, as well as the Collectivité Territoriale de Corse.

Of course, we will all thank for their incomparable support, the Generali Group and its President, the good friend of bridge, Antoine Bernheim, who unfortunately cannot be with us due to a business commitment.

Thank you all also for your presence here, which will highlight the Generali Masters which I now declare open.

The Festival of Ajaccio

The Mixed Pairs

Contestants in the Generali Masters occupied the top five places in the Mixed Pairs event of the local bridge Congress which preceded the masters.

Sitting at the dining table the evening before the Mixed Pairs, Benedicte Cronier was asked whether she wanted to partner Alain Levy or Paul Chemla, both of whom were sitting at the table with her. "I would like to partner Alain," she declared. Paul Chemla was quick with his retort "And I suppose you prefer leeks to asparagus!"

Leaders after the first session were Anton Maas and Bep Vriend of the Netherlands, but they suffered a reverse after a textbook declarer play by Sven-Olov Flodqvist of Sweden on this deal:

Session 1. Board 35. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Sven-Olov Flodqvist</i>	<i>Anton Maas</i>	<i>Pyttsi Flodqvist</i>	<i>Bep Vriend</i>
1♦	Pass	2♣	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Anton Maas, North, led his fourth highest heart against what was the popular contract of Three No Trump by West. The first trick went to the ten, queen and ace. At most tables, declarer began with a diamond finesse. This lost, and a second heart from South cleared the suit. As North had an entry with the ace of spades, the contract failed.

Flodqvist saw that if the diamond finesse was winning there was no rush to take it, and if it was losing he needed to set up his side tricks first. So, at trick two, he led a spade

to the king and, when that held, continued with a spade to the ten and ace. Whatever Maas did now, nine tricks were secure for declarer. In practice, Maas played for declarer to have bare ♥AK - and continued with a second heart. This gave Flodqvist ten tricks and a top.

At some tables, West allowed South to win the first heart. South usually continued the suit and declarer was home even if he began with the diamond finesse because South had no third heart to play. However, if South switches to a club at trick two, the play becomes more interesting.

Suppose declarer wins the first club. Then the situation with the entries for the defenders has been reversed – *South* is the danger hand, and declarer must take the diamond finesse *before* touching spades. South wins and plays a second club which declarer allows the defence to win. Now they are finished because declarer can set up his spade tricks in safety losing only one trick in each suit.

Note that if South has *both* entries (♦K and ♠A) then ducking the first heart is fatal, so Flodqvist's line of winning and tackling spades is eminently correct.

Results from the Mixed Pairs

(70 pairs):

1.	Quantin - Allouche	(FRA)	134.7
2.	Wolff - Rogers	(USA)	125.2
3.	Multon - Multon	(FRA)	123.8
4.	Mittleman - Gordon	(CAN)	121.3
5.	Maas - Vriend	(NET)	118.7

Results from the Open Pairs

(72 Pairs):

1.	Allegaert - Shivdasani	(USA-IND)	194.3
2.	Stoppa - Meyer	(FRA)	191.6
3.	Martens - Szymanowski	(POL)	185.0
4.	Quantin - Abecassis	(FRA)	184.3
5.	Chemla - Levy	(FRA)	174.3

The Teams

The two session team championship which preceded the Generali attracted several of the competitors in the World Individual in addition to members of the WBF Management Committee holding its meetings at the same venue.

Dan Morse of the USA, partnering John Wignall of New Zealand playing for the WBF 'B' team achieved this coup against the Chinese team:

Dealer South. Love All.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Derivery</i>	<i>Flodqvist</i>	<i>d'Orsi</i>	<i>Wang Weimin</i>
–	–	–	2♣
3♠	Pass	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Lead: ♠K

West	North	East	South
<i>Sun Ming</i>	<i>Wignall</i>	<i>Wang Wenfei</i>	<i>Morse</i>
–	–	–	2♣
2♠	Dble ¹	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	4NT	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

¹ Negative

West led ♣J against Morse's Six No Trumps. Morse won in hand and started on hearts: the king, a finesse of the jack and the ace, on which East threw a diamond and South a spade. Setting up the fifth heart would give declarer a tenth trick, but the spade finesse was clearly losing. Morse decided to start by taking the diamond finesse. The jack held, but West threw a spade.

Now Morse found the winning line of setting up the heart and throwing ♠Q from his hand, retaining the minor suit threats against East. West won the fourth heart and ex-

ited with a second club. Morse carefully won this in hand so he could cash the ace of spades before crossing to dummy with the third club. The fifth heart then squeezed East in the minors.

Well played – and a slam swing for the WBF team when their opponents at the other table stopped in Three No Trumps.

Results from the Teams

(26 Teams):

1. Allegaert; Shivdasani; Martens; Szymanowski
(USA, IND, POL)
2. Martinenghi; Simeoni; Mouiel; Bompis;
Multon
(Corsica, FRA)
- 3=. Mari; Bonavita; Ciavaldim; Alessandri;
Guazzelli
(Corsica)
- 3=. Bronstein; Meyers; Rigal; Picus; Freeman
(USA)

Additions to the Generali Masters

The following players were invited at the last minute to replace two players who were ill and one who suffered a bereavement. In addition, two players failed to arrive.

Jean Louis Stoppa of France is a European Champion and captain of the current World Champions

Win Allegaert of the USA partnered Jaggy Shivdasani in the Ajaccio Festival, winning both the teams and the pairs. He is drawn as player No. 1 suggesting a continuation of the sequence Win Wins.

Dan Morse of the USA is a member of the WBF Management Committee who has captained several American teams to world titles. He won bronze medals in the 1982 and 1990 Rosenblum Teams.

Michel Bessis of France won the European Mixed Teams Championship two weeks ago in Aachen.

Patrick Jourdain of Great Britain is the Editor of the Daily Bulletin here, and Editor of the International Bridge Press Association Bulletin. He is Wales' most capped international player.

The Players in the 1998 Generali Masters

The Men

Player No.

6	Abecassis	Michel	(FRA)	5	Lambardi	Pablo	(ARG)
1	Allegaert	Win	(USA)	44	Lantaron	Luis	(SPA)
13	Auken	Jens	(DEN)	51	Levy	Alain	(FRA)
10	Baldursson	Jon	(ICE)	41	Maas	Anton	(NTH)
34	Bessis	Michel	(FRA)	29	Mahmood	Zia	(PAK)
7	Bocchi	Norberto	(ITA)	19	Mari	Christian	(FRA)
37	Bompis	Marc	(FRA)	46	Martens	Krzysztof	(POL)
16	Chagas	Gabriel	(BRA)	45	Mittelman	George	(CAN)
28	Chemla	Paul	(FRA)	42	Morse	Dan	(USA)
11	Cope	Tim	(SAF)	20	Mouiel	Hervé	(FRA)
33	Cronier	Philippe	(FRA)	47	Multon	Franck	(FRA)
30	Delmouly	Claude	(FRA)	39	Perron	Michel	(FRA)
36	Duboin	Giorgio	(ITA)	35	Quantin	Jean-Christophe	(FRA)
9	Flodqvist	Sven-Olov	(SWE)	18	Richman	Bobby	(AUS)
12	Freeman	Dick	(USA)	43	Robson	Andrew	(GBR)
21	Fucik	Jan	(AUT)	8	Roudinesco	Jean-Marc	(FRA)
40	Gawrys	Piotr	(POL)	49	Sacul	Denny	(IDN)
23	Hackett	Jason	(GBR)	52	Sharif	Omar	(EGY)
50	Hackett	Justin	(GBR)	24	Shivdasani	Jaggy	(IND)
17	Helgemo	Geir	(NOR)	2	Stoppa	Jean Louis	(FRA)
31	Helness	Tor	(NOR)	3	Szwarc	Henri	(FRA)
4	Jourdain	Patrick	(GBR)	27	Szymanowski	Marek	(POL)
25	Karlaftis	George	(GRE)	15	Wang	Weimin	(CHN)
26	Kholomeev	Vadim	(RUS)	48	Westra	Berry	(NTH)
22	Kokish	Eric	(CAN)	14	Wolff	Robert S	(USA)
38	Kowalski	Apolinary	(POL)	32	Zhong	Fu	(CHN)

The Women

12	Arnim (von)	Daniela	(GER)	7	Lise	Colette	(FRA)
28	Auken	Sabine	(GER)	5	McGowan	Liz	(GBR)
22	Bessis	Véronique	(FRA)	27	Meyers	Jill	(USA)
16	Cronier	Bénédicte	(FRA)	13	Pas (van der)	Marijke	(NTH)
1	De Lucchi	Francesca	(ITA)	3	Picus	Sue	(USA)
10	Delor	Elisabeth	(FRA)	9	Polet	Valérie	(BEL)
18	Dhondy	Heather	(GBR)	24	Rosetta	Annalisa	(ITA)
6	Erhardt	Maria	(AUT)	15	Saul	Catherine	(FRA)
17	Flodqvist	Ann-Magret	(SWE)	8	Smith	Nicola	(GBR)
25	Gordon	Dianna	(CAN)	11	Sun	Ming	(CHN)
21	Harasimowicz	Ewa	(POL)	23	Vriend	Bep	(NTH)
2	Khalil	Lilly	(EGY)	19	Wang	Wenfei	(CHN)
14	Landy	Sandra	(GBR)	4	Willard	Sylvie	(FRA)
26	Levit-Porat	Ruth	(ISR)	20	Zur-Albu	Migri	(ISR)