

World Bridge News



EXECUTIVE EDITOR
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JANUARY 2007

THE OFFICIAL MEDIUM OF THE WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

Go for the Youth

In last year's World Bridge news, I concluded my editorial with this statement:

"If you help yourselves and seek our help we can succeed in reaching a better understanding of one another, our goals and needs, and truly promote our wonderful sport."

We have long emphasized these ideas and demonstrated at the WBF Congress Meetings in Verona our resolve to find the means to work together for the good of bridge. We encourage all NBOs to consider our promotion and communication plans, based on demographic research of our membership base.

Although we are aware that we must be concerned with all the different age groups that comprise the Bridge-playing population, it is evident that the youth must be our first priority. This was the conclusion of the brainstorming session held by the WBF Executive counsellors during the first three days of the Verona meetings. The reasons are quite clear:

- A matter of numbers: if we do not replenish the Bridge population with youngsters, the game will simply die; although there will always be those in the 60-plus category who take up Bridge when they retire, without significant recruitment of young players, we will not keep pace with the numbers we lose to natural causes.
- The inevitable competition from other sports both physical and "mind," all of which enjoy a strong base of young participants. Bridge must not accept a characterization as an activity reserved for older people.
- Our own image and real development: if we cannot attract young people to our sport, we will never be a vibrant part of modern society, and Bridge will merit the neglect and limited respect of the media.

I sincerely hope to be able to convince all of you – our respected and

influential Bridge administrators - of the primary importance of supporting our youth initiative in every member country of our world Bridge community.

I was very pleased with the turnout in Open, Women's and Senior events in Verona, where we received tremendous publicity due to the presence of Bill Gates and other VIP's like Antoine Bernheim and Romain Zaleski. However, I was even more delighted with the participation in the World Junior Pairs Championships in Slovakia, and with the victory of two charming young Swedish girls, which attracted considerable television coverage in their country. Later in the year, the Youth sector enjoyed additional positive media exposure at the World Youth Teams Championships in Bangkok, and at the World University Championships in Tianjin (China) organized with the FISU, where 15 different newspapers and television channels reported on the event. Where some NBOs could not have participated in these events without outside financial support, the WBF stepped in to provide assistance.



Now we are ready to do much more. Indeed our ambition is to include only the Youth in the next **World Mind Sports Games**, which will be held in October 2008 in Beijing (the 13th World Bridge Teams Olympiad, for Open, Women's, Senior and Mixed teams will be held at the same time, but separately). Every country, every NBO was advised in July about this event, giving them more than two years to prepare a junior team to participate in the World Mind Sport Games, which will surely attract talented young people involved with Bridge, Chess, Go, and Draughts.

Which brings us back to where we came in: help yourself, and we will help.

Indeed, we hope that the IMSA (International Mind Sport Association) will take care of all expenses of the teams – flights and full board accommodation for six players (boys or girls) plus a captain or coach who will also attend the Congress.

What more can we do to help? Although you are aware that you have at your disposal the teaching program on our site: www.wbfteaching.org, it's up to you to form and educate this team, a mission that will surely stimulate or revive Bridge in your country, and reward you for your efforts in advancing our cause.

Please do it.

You can count on me.

I am counting on you.

José Damiani, WBF President

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REPORT

June 9-24, 2006, Verona, Italy

BY ERIC KOKISH



European Olympic
Committee



Federazione Italiana
Gioco Bridge



European Bridge
League



Comitato Olimpico
Nazionale Italiano

The 8th World Bridge Championships



Regione del Veneto

Those of us fortunate enough to have participated in the last Generali Masters Individual had been introduced to the delights of the fabulous city of Verona in September, 2004, but for thousands of the world's most competitive bridge players, getting acquainted with the scene of the 8th World Bridge must have been a special treat. With the timeless love story of Romeo and Juliet as a backdrop, Verona's magnificent Arena, historic fortresses and architecture, beckoning plazas, cultural and artistic heritage, first class gastronomy and excellent regional wines, suitable accommodations, and picturesque environs ensured that visitors would enjoy themselves even if their luck at the bridge table might let them down.

In the Opening Ceremony, held at Verona's Palazzo della Granguardia, World Bridge Federation President José Damiani paid tribute to the many who contributed to the organization of the tournament and its supporters, which included institutional sponsors Regione del Veneto, Verona Provincia, Verona Commune, Camera di Commercio,

Veronafiore; private companies Generali Group (and its dynamic President Antoine Bernheim), Banco Popolare de Verona, Cattolica Assicurazione (via recommendation of Romain Zaleski), Lavazza, and Renault; and the host bridge federation FIGB, its President and Organizing Committee. Gianarrigo Rona, President of both the European

Bridge League and the Italian Bridge Federation, noted that Italy had hosted many world tournaments over the years but never the World Bridge Championships, and that the Italian government had approved the release of a commemorative stamp, sending a strong message of support for bridge.

LAVAZZA



RENAULT

provincia
verona

Comune
di Verona

VERONAFIERE



Camera di Commercio

At the Verona WBF Executive Council meetings José Damiani was re-elected to a fourth term as president, which will afford him the opportunity to pursue his successful initiative with the International Olympic Committee, an ongoing campaign to interest more young people in the game, and his vision of "Bridge for Peace." Other WBF elections: Gianariggo Rona, first vice president; John Wignall, second vice president; vice presidents, Panos Gerontopoulos (Zone 1), George Retek (Zone 2), Mazhar Jafri (Zone 4) and Patrick Choy (Zone 6). Also elected were Jean-Louis Derivery, treasurer, and Dan Morse, honorary secretary.

For the first time, all events at the World Bridge Championships would be transnational.

THE MIXED PAIRS

The first event, the Mixed Pairs, attracted a field of 481 pairs, who competed in three qualifying sessions, the top 182 pairs surviving to the three-session final. The leaders after the qualifying stage were Chantal Haemmerli (Switzerland)/ Alfredo Versace (Italy), with Jill Meyers / Zia Mahmood (USA) second and Danuta Hochecker/ Mirosław Cichocki third.

Although the leaders stayed ahead of the field at the end of the first final session, they fell on hard times and soon dropped out of contention. Meanwhile, **Karen McCallum** and **Matthew Granovetter**, who had moved up to third at the end of the first final session, gained a place after the second and yet another in the vital third to earn the Mixed Pairs title with an average session score of 59.28%. Americans occupied six of the

top 10 overall places, including all three medal positions, with married couples Jill and Bobby Levin and JoAnna and Lew Stansby (who had a huge final day) finishing second and third respectively. Just missing a medal after leading the field with two rounds to go were Australia's Fiona Brown and Hugh McGann of Ireland, a sensational result for the youthful Fiona in her first world championship.

1. Karen McCallum/Matt Granovetter (USA)	59.28 %
2. Jill Levin / Bobby Levin (USA)	58.75 %
3. JoAnna Stansby / Lew Stansby (USA)	58.47 %
4. Fiona Brown / Hugh McGann	58.07 %
5. Christal Henner-Welland / Marc Jacobus	57.79 %
6. Victoria Gromova / Andrei Gromov	57.71 %
7. Kerri Sanborn / Larry N. Cohen	57.48 %
8. Daniele Allouche-Gaviard / Juan C. Ventin	56.75 %
9. Renee Mancuso / Grant Baze	56.39 %
10. Manuela Gemignani / Leonardo Cima	56.37 %

MIXED PAIRS (Consolation) PLATE (232 pairs, two sessions)

1. Danielle AVON / Jean-Michel VOLDIOIRE	62.23 %
2. Irene BARONI / Enrico GUERRA	61.44 %
3. Catherine RITTER / Sartaj HANS	61.25 %

THE ROSENBLUM TEAMS

The entry of 173 teams was up slightly from the "perfect" 160 in Montreal in 2003. The top 4 teams from each of 16 groups of 10 or 11 teams would qualify for the 64-team knockout phase. The top 16 seeds in the knockout would be assigned on the basis of WBF masterpoint rankings, but the rest of the draw would be based on teams' rankings within their group in the round robin phase. Through the quarterfinals, the knockout rounds would feature 56-board matches, but the semifinals would comprise 60 deals and the final 64.

Although the Daily Bulletin alleged that there were no major surprises at the end

of the qualifying rounds, I suspect that at least the following well-seasoned teams would beg to differ: **SIMSON** (Doug Simson/Walter Johnson, Doug Doub / Adam Wildavsky, Mark Tolliver / Mark Zwerling); **FORRESTER** (Tony Forrester / Mike Moss, Tom Townsend / David Gold); **JOHNSON** (Perry Johnson / Michael Zerbini, Chuck Burger / Howard Perlman, Peter Weichsel / Marcin Lesniewski); **MOSSOP** (David Mossop / G. Zivkovic, David Price / Colin Simpson); **OTVOSI** (Ervin Otvosi / Marek Borewicz, Tomasz Przybora / Jacek Romanski, J Stepinski / Marek Szymanowski); **OzOne-NAGY** (Zol Nagy / Bobby Richman, Sartaj Hans / Tony Nunn); **HACKETT** (Paul Hackett / Tony Waterlow, John Armstrong / John Holland); **MUZZIO** (Alejandro Bianchedi, Hector Camberos, Ernesto Muzzio, Adolfo Madala, Eduardo Scanavino); **SPECTOR** (Warren Spector / Michael Seamon, Bart Bramley / Mark Feldman, Jan Jansma / Louk Verhees); **ALIZEE** (Doris Fischer / Bernd Saurer, Martin Schiffko / Arno Lindermann, Sasha Wernle / Josef Simon).

The round of 64 featured the demise of two of the top seeds. Fourth-seeded **JACOBS** (George Jacobs / Ralph Katz, Zia Mahmood / Michael Rosenberg, Cezary Balicki / Adam Zmudzinski) were ousted by the unheralded French team **"BRIDGE+"** (Édouard Beauvillain, Yves Jeanneteau, Jérémie Tignel, Jean-Gilles Hervé, Marina Bogdan, Gilles Queran), 113-122, the underdogs winning three of the four fiercely-contested quarters by small margins. Meanwhile, the mighty second-seeded **ANGELINI** (Francesco Angelini / Antonio Sementa, Alfredo Versace / Lorenzo Lauria, Fulvio Fantoni / Claudio Nunes) team was unfortunate to draw **SCHWARTZ** (Richie Schwartz / Chris Willenken, Jim Krekorian / Drew Casen, Tarek Sadek / Walid El Ahmadi), probably the strongest of the unseeded teams finishing fourth in their qualifying group. Schwartz parlayed a 61-14 third quarter into a 32-IMP victory, 124-92.

In the round of 32, Italy's hopes for the title suffered another major blow when third-seeded **LAVAZZA** team (Norberto Bocchi / Giorgio Duboin, Mario d'Avossa/ Stelio Di Bello, Guido Ferraro / Agustin Madala) resigned after three quarters to Denmark's **HECHT-JOHANSEN**



Mixed Pairs Winners



Rosenblum Teams Winners

(Peter Hecht-Johansen, Knut and Lars Blakset, M Bilde, J Hansen, H Nielsen), trailing 31-146. There were many close matches in this round with several of the other top 16 seeds falling, but few would be considered major upsets.

Only eight of the original top 16 teams had protected their seed into the third knockout round, which produced the following results: Nickell defeated Gartaganis 148- 99; Mahaffey defeated Schwartz 111-103; Yadlin defeated Hecht-Johansen 120-112; Soulet defeated Belgium 1 123-54; Welland defeated Allfrey 133-105; China SMEG defeated Milner 183-127; Henner defeated Chagas 124-114.5; Meltzer defeated Ekeblad 143-123.

Five of those eight seeded teams survived to the quarterfinals, which featured five teams with American captains and a couple of matches that might occur in the late stages of the Vanderbilt or Spingold.

The top seeded **NICKELL** team (Nick Nickell / Dick Freeman, Jeff Meckstroth / Eric Rodwell, Bob Hamman / Paul Soloway) led by 24 at the quarter, 11 at the half, and 10 after three quarters, but bowed out to 8th-seeded **MELTZER** (Rose Meltzer / Kyle Larsen, Alan Sontag / Roger Bates, Geir Helgemo / Tor Helness) by 23 IMPs, 86-109, after losing the fourth stanza convincingly, 5-38.

MAHAFFEY (Jim Mahaffey / Barnet Shenkin, Gary Cohler/Mark Lair, Piotr Gawrys / Sam Lev), who had claimed the second seed by defeating Schwartz, fell to the original 10th-seed - **HENNER** (Christal Henner-Welland / Marc Jacobus,

Magnus Linkvist / Peter Fredin, Peter Bertheau / Fredrik Nystrom) 101-146 despite a strong comeback in the fourth quarter.

6th seeded China **SMEG** (Zhong Fu / Jie Zhao, Zejun Zhuang / Haojun Shi, Jlanming Dai / Lixin Yang), the national team, fell to **YADLIN** (Doron and Israel Yadlin, Avi Kalish / Leonid Podgur, Eldad Ginossar / Melih Ozdil) 131-148, after leading by 31 IMPs at the half. Yadlin recovered 28 IMPs in the third quarter and added 20 more in the fourth.

France's **SOULET** (Philippe Soulet, Patrick Sussel, B. Payen, Éric Eisenberg, Danièle Allouche-Gaviard) had enjoyed a great run to inherit the 4th seed originally enjoyed by Jacobs, but **WELLAND** (Roy Welland / Bjorn Fallenius, Chip Martel / Lew Stansby, Bobby Levin / Steve Weinstein), the original 5th seed, gained 15 IMPs in the third set and 12 in the fourth to win by 26 IMPs, 144-118 after trailing by 1 IMP at the half.

The all-American semi-final between Welland and Meltzer was not close. Meltzer, ahead by 18 IMPs after one quarter, posted a 61-0 second set, and won going away.

Meltzer				
48	61	24	38	171
Welland				
30	0	26	21	77

There was still hope for gold in the Welland domicile, thanks to Roy's wife, Christal Henner-Welland, whose American/Swedish squad rallied down the stretch to wipe out a significant deficit to overcome Yadlin in the other semi-final. Henner trailed Yadlin 68-102 going into

the final quarter, and Yadlin added 5 IMPs on the first board of the set. Yadlin would not score another IMP, however, while Henner put 45 of their own on the board to pull out the match 113-107, taking the lead on the 59th deal of the 60-board match.

Yadlin				
51	29	22	5	107
Henner				
36	9	23	45	113

Board 59 Dealer North Both Vul.				
	♠ 7 2			
	♥ K 4			
	♦ A K 6 2			
	♣ A K Q 3 2			
♠ K 8 6 4		♠ Q J 9 5 3		
♥ 8 7 3		♥ J 10 9 6 5		
♦ J 7		♦ 10 8 4		
♣ J 9 8 5		♣ -		
	♠ A 10			
	♥ A Q 2			
	♦ Q 9 5 3			
	♣ 10 7 6 4			

Henner vs Yadlin				
Open Room				
West	North	East	South	
Ozdil	Lindkvist	Ginossar	Fredin	
	1♣	Pass	3NT	
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥	
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♠	
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♣ (All Pass)	
Closed Room				
West	North	East	South	
Bertheau	Doron	Nystrom	Israel	
	2NT	Pass	3♣	
Pass	3NT (1)	Pass	4NT (All Pass)	
(1) No four- or five-card major				

7♣ is an excellent contract, and 7♦ is pretty good too, but the cruel club break will defeat either grand slam, so the winning approach on this layout is to finish in one of the relatively normal minor-suit small slams. Had Lindkvist/Fredin known the current score of the match (107-101 for Yadlin) and been permitted to see only one another's hands, they would surely have chosen to play in 7♣, expecting their counterparts to be in six. Fortunately for them, they were not privileged with that information, and stopped safely in six (apparently after a misunderstanding that created a heated exchange that began when dummy appeared... but ended abruptly

when Ginossar showed out on the first trump) after Lindkvist tried for seven: +1370 on the lead of the ♠Q. This was doubly good for Henner as the normally aggressive Yadlin brothers picked a terrible moment to turn conservative, Doron basing his final decision on straight point count. Nystrom led the ♠Q to hold 4NT to five, +660. Henner gained 12 IMPs to take the lead for the first time since Board 7, 113-109, with one deal remaining. Although there was some potential for a swing on Board 60, it didn't materialize, and Henner hung on to reach the final.

The 64-board final was a tight match, with none of the four segments decided by more than 16 IMPs. However, Meltzer won all four quarters and won the Rosenblum Cup by 46 IMPs.

Meltzer				
36	44	43	56	179
Henner				
20	32	39	42	133

In the 2001 Paris Bermuda Bowl, Helgemo/Helness had been key members of the Norwegian team that lost the final to Meltzer's team. In Verona, as if to prove the wisdom of "if you can't beat 'em, join 'em," Norway's finest made their debut in the Meltzer lineup and earned their first world title. Meltzer, the first woman to win the Bermuda Bowl, is also the first woman to win the Rosenblum and the Senior Bowl (Estoril, 2005).

In the playoff for third place, Yadlin bested Welland over 32 deals to earn the bronze medals.

Yadlin		
18	51	69
Henner		
26	39	65

THE McCONNELL CUP

The 39-team turnout for the **McConnell Cup** was slightly higher than the 36 entries in Montreal in the 2002 edition. They were divided into four seeded nine or ten-team groups to play complete internal round robins, with the top four in each group to qualify for the 16-team knockout stage.

There were some surprises in the qualifying round, with several likely contenders



McConnell Cup Winners

missing the cut, including: **PENFOLD** (Sandra Penfold Matilda Poplilov, Nevena Senior / Janine Ford, Nicola Smith / Heather Dhondy); **JACOBS** (Stacy Jacobs / Shannon Cappelletti, Lisa Berkowitz / Joann Glasson, Monica Cuzzi / Gabriela Olivieri); **POLLACK** (Rozanne Pollack / Amalya Kearse, Petra Hamman / Peggy Sutherland, Nancy Passell / Betty Ann Kennedy); and **MARTEL** (Jan Martel / Sally Woolsey, Margie Gwozdzinky / Cathy Strauch).

For the round of 16, the top four seeds were reserved for the four teams with the highest WBF master point totals, with the remaining 12 slots determined by rankings within the qualifying groups, following the seeding plan for the Rosenblum with the same potential for arbitrary matchups. Sure enough, the first Knockout round featured the elimination of the top two seeds in remarkable fashion. Consider the sensational scorelines in **BAKER** (Lynn Baker / Kerri Sanborn, Lynn Deas / Beth Palmer, Sabine Auken / Daniela von Arnim) vs Sweden's **KATT-BRIDGE** (Jenny and Mari Ryman, Katherine Bertheau / Caterina Midskog)...

(1) Baker				
20	54	5	76	155
(16) Katt-Bridge				
80	11	48	17	156

and **NETHERLANDS** (Carla Arnolds / Bep Vriend, Jet Pasman / Anneke Simons, Marion Michielsen / Meike Wortel) vs **VENEZUELA** (M. Bettini, P Daryanani, M. Pacheco, E. Rabicew, N. Tache, M. Tagliavia)...

(2) Netherlands				
16	40	39	10	105
(15) Venezuela				
35	19	8	48	110

The luck of the draw created an early meeting between two (largely) American teams with serious title hopes, with (7) **RADIN** (Judi Radin / Sylvia Moss, Shawn Quinn / Mildred Breed, Migry Zur-Campanile / Pamela Granovetter) facing (10) **STEINER** (Carlyn Steiner / Marinesa Letizia, Janice Seamon-Molson / Tobi Sokolow, Victoria Gromova / Tatiana Ponomareva). Steiner won the first three sets by small margins and the teams drew in the fourth quarter, so Steiner moved on to the quarter-finals.

In the other matches, (3) China Global Times defeated Gruppo Midi, 166-97; (4) Narasimhan defeated Bessis, 139-114; (5) Westheimer bowed to France's Levy in a match that had to replay the fourth quarter when both pairs from each team sat in the same direction and no one caught the error; (6) Poland defeated Sver; and (8) McGowan fell to DanGer.

In the quarterfinals, Katt-Bridge made good use of the first seed by ending the strong run of the Danish-German team "**DanGer**" (Trine Binderkrantz / Nadia Bekkouche, Ingrid Gromann / Elke Weber), 171-109; Venezuela relinquished the second seed to Steiner, 76-159, resigning after three quarters; (3) **CHINA GLOBAL TIMES** (Ling Gu / Yalan Zhang, Wenfei Wang / Hongli Wang, Yu Zhang / Liping Wang) held serve against Poland (Grazyna Brewiak, Ewa Harasimowicz, Malgorzata Pasternak, Anna Sarniak, Ewa Sobolewska, Anna Szczepanska), eating away at a 12-45 first-quarter deficit to prevail 134-129; and **Narasimhan** (Hansa Narasimhan / Irina Levitina, JoAnna Stansby / Debbie Rosenberg, Jill Levin / Jill Meyers) survived a fourth-quarter



scare to retain the fourth seed by defeating **LEVY** (Anne-Frédérique Levy / Blanchine de Heredia, Muriel Clément / Sylvie Dumon) 143-122.

In the semi-finals, Katt-Bridge continued its strong play, winning two of the four quarters against the formidable Narasimhan team, but the Americans rode two strong sets to a 97-127 win to reach the final.

Katt-Bridge					
27	8	38	24		97
Narasimhan					
18	43	23	43		127

Meanwhile, after a strong first quarter, Steiner had much the worst of the next two sets to trail China Global Times 57-82, but rallied to win the match with a game swing on the last board.

Steiner					
28	6	23	34		91
China Global Times					
2	37	43	6		88

Although both teams in the final were nominally American, there would be a dash of Russian panache, courtesy of Levitina, Gromova and Ponomareva.

Although Narasimhan had a huge first quarter to lead by 42, Steiner wiped out three-quarters of that deficit in the second set, built a 23-IMP lead after three quarters, and coasted home to win going away by 50 IMPs.

This deal, from the wild third quarter, helped Steiner turn the match around...

Board 36 Dealer East E/W Vul.		♠ 6 3
	♥ 10 3	
	♦ 7 5 2	
	♣ A 10 7 6 4 3	
♠ K 2		♠ A J 10 9 4
♥ J		♥ A 9 8 5 4
♦ K Q 10 9 8 4 3	N	♦ A 6
♣ Q 9 8	W	♣ 2
	E	
	S	
		♠ Q 8 7 5
		♥ K Q 7 6 2
		♦ J
		♣ K J 5

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Pono'reva	Meyers	Gromova	Levin
3♦ (1)	Pass	1♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	5♦	Dble
(1) Invitational			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Stansby	Sokolow	Rosenberg	Seamon-M
2♦	Pass	1♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass	3♥	Pass

In 5♦, Ponomareva took Meyers' lead of the ♥10 with dummy's ace and played a club. Declarer needed only one club ruff to make five, and she made a twelfth trick when South discarded a couple of spades, playing North for the king if the contract were to be set; +620. Stansby, fearing that her partner might not be able to bid 3NT over 3♠ with some modest help in clubs, made the battle-field decision to shoot out 3NT herself.

Sokolow led a club and the defenders cashed six club tricks for two down, -200, and 13 IMPs to Steiner.

For the winners Ponomareva/Gromova added the McConnell crown to the 2004 Olympiad Women's Teams title they earned in Istanbul, where they defeated their Verona team-mates in the final, demonstrating once more that it's a good idea to join forces with your opponents before they beat you again. In the playoff for third place, the gallant Swedish team, Katt-Bridge, won a nail-biter against the Chinese national women's team, China Global Times, over 30 deals to earn the bronze medals.

Katt-Bridge			
31	39		70
China Global Times			
31	36		67

SWISS PLATE TEAM CONSOLATION (68 teams)

This was a one-day Swiss event, scored at Victory Points, open to teams that did not qualify in the round robins of the Rosenblum and McConnell Teams. The medalists were:

- **1. 119 VP** - Tennis Club Parioli - Angelini Junior:
Arrigo Franchi, Irene Baroni, Giuseppe Delle Cave, Simon Fellus, Federico Iavicoli, Matteo Montanari
- **2. 116 VP** - Van Eijck:
Herman Drenkelford, Willem Van Eijck, Rene Hermans, Michel Jialal, Fred Wilde
- **3. 114 VP** - Rogoff:
Bruce Rogoff / Barry Rigal, John Carroll / Tommy Garvey

THE SENIOR TEAMS

There were 42 entries in the Senior Teams, a four-day event, with the first two-and-a-half days devoted to a 10-round Swiss Qualifying stage of 10-board matches. The top eight teams would survive to the knockout phase, which would consist of three 24-board matches.

Although the field was relatively small, there were many impressive entries,



Senior Teams Winners

several of whom did not make it to the knockout stage. The leading qualifiers could select their quarter-final opponents from the teams finishing 5th-8th in the Swiss, which led to these match-ups and results:

Markowicz	15	62	77
Marino	46	4	50

Jean-Marsha	33	24	57
Kaminsky	5	41	46

Indonesia	37	24	61
Finkel	21	41	62

Netherlands 1	61	17	78
Szenberg	16	48	64

The semi-finals featured four strong teams with excellent records in both open and senior competition. **MARKOWICZ** (Victor Markowicz / Jerzy Zaremba, Salek Zeligman / Victor Melman, Julian Klukowski / Alexander Jezioro) were probably slight betting underdogs against **NETHERLANDS 1** (Jaap Trouwborst, Willem Boegem, Nico Doremans, Onno Janssens, Nico Klaver, Roald Ramer), but gave very little away to reach the final with a 17-IMP win.

Markovic	19	30	49
Netherlands 1	4	28	32

The other semi-final was a high-profile battle between **FINKEL** (Lew Finkel, John Sutherlin, Gaylor Kasle, John Mohan) and **JEAN-MARSHA** (Arnie Fisher / PO Sundelin, Jim Sternberg / Alan Cokin, Neil Chambers / John Schermer), teams stuffed with top professionals. Finkel fell 7 IMPs behind at the half, but rallied in the second to win by 11.

Jean-Marsha	28	22	50
Finkel	21	40	61

The final was an exciting affair, with Finkel taking a 22-IMP lead in the first



Open Pairs Winners

half and Markowicz coming back strong in the second. Markowicz broke a tie with a 6-IMP gain on the penultimate deal and held on to that advantage to win the title, 59-53.

Markowicz	11	48	59
Finkel	33	20	53

In the bronze-medal playoff, Netherlands 1 came back to wipe out a significant deficit in the second half to defeat Jean-Marsha, 71-60.

Netherlands 1	19	52	71
Jean-Marsha	42	18	60

THE OPEN PAIRS

The centrepiece of the World Bridge Championships is the multi-stage Open

Pairs, which in Verona attracted a starting field of 336 pairs for the five-session qualifying stage. 182 of those pairs would qualify for the five-session semifinal, and approximately 58 of their number would be joined by roughly 14 pairs dropping in from the late stages of the Rosenblum teams, to create a 72-pair five-session barometer final.

That there would be no carryover from one phase of the event to the next was particularly bad news for Ashok Kumar Goel / Kamal Mukherjee, Patrick Grenthe / Michel Duguet, and Jean-Paul Balian / Philippe Toffier, the top three qualifiers from Phase One, and Jens Auker / Soren Christiansen, Konrad Araskiewicz / Dariusz Kowalski, and Jérôme Rombaut / Lionel Sebanne, the three leading pairs after the semi-finals.

With one session remaining in the final, Marc Bompis / Thierry de Sainte-Marie of France led, with 57.05%, with China's



Ladies Pairs Winners



Zhong Fu/Jie Zhao second with an average of 56.36%, Vincent Ramondt / Berry Westra of the Netherlands third with 56.35%. The 10th-place score was 54.46%, 16th 53.06%. Although the differences might not seem that great at first glance, making up an average of 1% (about 70% of a top) would be quite an accomplishment.

Fu / Zhao moved into first place about halfway through the fifth final session, followed very closely by Ramondt / Westra, Bompis / de Sainte-Marie, Bobby Levin / Steve Weinstein, Fulvio Fantoni / Claudio Nunes (the defending champions), David Bakhshi / Andrew McIntosh and Jacek Pszczola / Cezary Balicki, all of whom still had a legitimate shot to win, with less than a top separating them.

With the issue in doubt until the end, a strong run by Levin / Weinstein, who started the session in sixth place with 55.20%, fell short, and a big session by Fantoni / Nunes carried them from tenth to third and the bronze medals.

The very last round brought some high drama, with Fu / Zhao lucky to score 24% on the first deal for misjudging the defense to an aggressive game while Levin / Weinstein managed 63% for holding a partscore in the same strain to one trick fewer.

If the last deal were to go the same way, the Americans were poised to win the event, but both leading pairs defended the same contract and Fu / Zhao did

a trick better than their rivals to secure their title.

THE OPEN PAIRS TOP 10

1. **Zhong FU / Jie ZHAO (China)** 56.84 %
2. **Bobby LEVIN / Steve WEINSTEIN (USA)** 56.41 %
3. **Fulvio FANTONI / Claudio NUNES (Italy)** 55.91 %
4. Vincent RAMONDT / Berry WESTRA 55.16 %
5. Jacek PSZCZOLA / Cezary BALICKI 55.14 %
6. David BAKHSHI / Andrew McINTOSH 54.73 %
7. Fred GITELMAN / Brad MOSS 54.38 %
8. Win ALLEGAERT / Jaggy SHIVDASANI 54.03 %
9. Jason HACKETT / Justin HACKETT 53.67 %
10. W. OLANSKI / W. STARKOWSKI 53.47 %

Traditional wisdom holds that you can't win a multi-session pair game without enjoying more than your share of good luck, and the winners had plenty of that in their Verona triumph, including some particularly positive fortune on the six slam deals in the final session.

Less spectacular but no less important was this deal that contributed heavily to the medal positions:

Dealer West N/S Vul.		♠ J 8 3
		♥ Q 3
		♦ 10 7 5
		♣ J 7 6 3 2
♠ A 10 7 4	♠ 9 5	
♥ 6 5 4 2	♥ A 10 9 8 7	
♦ K 2	♦ Q 8 4	
♣ Q 10 9	♣ A K 8	
		♠ K Q 6 2
		♥ K J
		♦ A J 9 6 3
		♣ 5 4

West	North	East	South
Zhao	Fantoni	Fu	Nunes
Pass	Pass	1♥	Dble
2NT (1)	Pass	4♥	All Pass
(1) Limit raise in hearts			

Fu/Zhao were pressing for good results, which may explain their aggressive bidding on this deal, where the destination of the matchpoints was decided entirely in the auction. With hearts two-two, the contract was cold and +420 delivered 89% to E/W, 11% to the unfortunate **Fantoni/Nunes**.

THE WOMEN'S PAIRS

The Women's Pairs, which attracted a field of 81 pairs, would be played in three stages: a five-session qualifying stage to send 54 pairs to the five-session semi-final, and a four-session barometer final expected to be comprised of 36 pairs: approximately 27 from the semis and the remainder dropping in from the late stages of the McConnell Teams.

At the end of the qualifying stage, Yan Huang / Yan Hong Wang led the pack, with Joann Glasson / Lisa Berkowitz second, and Ruth Arami / Kohava Schwartz third. With no carryover in this event either, those pairs would have to be content with a job well done, and in the event, only two of those three pairs would survive to the final. The top three at the end of the semi-finals were: Nikica Sver / Marina Pilpovic, Marion Michielsen / Meike Wortel, Pamela Granovetter / Migry Zur-Campanile, in that order.

Irina Levitina / Kerri Sanborn assumed the lead during the second session and,



Senior Pairs Winners

with an average of 59.79%, built an impressive lead of an average of nearly 3% over Janice Seamon / Sabine Auken with one session remaining; Wenfei Wang / Hongli Wang were third, nearly 2% behind second, and the pair in tenth place was (an average) of more than 7% behind the leaders, with no chance to win. For most of the fourth session, the leaders remained comfortably ahead of the field, but they hit a bad patch just as their closest rivals were able to put together a series of strong results, and with three rounds to go, the lead had all but disappeared.

Two strong rounds restored some breathing space, but the last three-board round was a nervous one. Levitina / Sanborn's scores were 15%, 74%, and a cold zero on the final deal, while Wang/Wang scored 85%, 68%, 12%, and Seamon-Molson / Auken 3%, 26% and 62%.

THE WOMEN'S PAIRS TOP 10

1. Irina LEVITINA/Kerri SANBORN (USA)	57.31 %
2. Wenfei WANG/Hongli WANG (China)	56.73 %
3. J. SEAMON-MOLSON/S. AUKEN (USA/Ger)	56.51 %
4. Yalan ZHANG/Ling GU	55.35 %
5. Nikica SVER/Marina PILIPOVIC	54.94 %
6. Sally BROCK/Heather DHONDY	53.83 %
7. Carla ARNOLDS/Bep VRIEND	53.18 %
8. Margie GWOZDZINSKY/Cathy STRAUCH	52.92 %
9. Shawn QUINN/Mildred BREED	52.68 %
10. Veronique BESSIS/Sylvie WILLARD	52.41 %

THE SENIOR PAIRS

When the Senior Pairs attracted a field of 103 pairs, it was decided to make the event a four-day eight-session play-through, with the winners earning the Hiron Trophy. Although there was some inevitable attrition due to the change in format (which was originally going to be four qualifying sessions over two days followed by a four-session barometer A final and a four-session B final), 88 of the pairs that started were willing and able to finish.

At the end of each of the four days, the leader board was headed by Nico Klaver/Roald Ramer of the Netherlands, but at the end their once-comfortable lead of over 3% had shrunk to just 0.18%.

With such a consistent performance, it was only just that they hung on to win.

THE SENIOR PAIRS TOP 10

1. N.KLAVER/R.RAMER (Netherlands)	57.63 %
2. J. KLUKOWSKI/A. JEZIORO (Poland)	57.45 %
3. E. WLADOW/R. MARSAL (Germany)	56.40 %
4. Nico DOREMANS/Jaap TROUWBORST	56.39 %
5. Marco RICCIARELLI/Franco BARONI	55.40 %
6. Krzysztof ANTAS/Tadeusz KACZANOWSKI	55.18 %
7. Reese MILNER/Sam LEV	55.16 %
8. Fritz KUBAK/Alexander MILAVEC	54.94 %
9. Dano De FALCO/Guido RESTA	54.68 %
10. Ulrich KRATZ/Bernhard STRATER	54.66 %

IMP PAIRS

The 178 pairs that entered the IMP Pairs would be eligible to play four qualifying sessions over two days. The five-session barometer A final would be a 72-pair affair, with most qualifiers coming from the qualifying round, the remainder dropping in from the semi-finals of the Open and Women's Pairs. Non-qualifiers from all three of the parallel pairs events would be eligible to play in the B final of the IMP pairs, a consolation event. There would be no carryover into the finals.

The leading qualifiers were Laurent Thuillez/Wilfried Librecht, Tommy Garvey/John Carroll, and Irina/Alexander Ladyzhensky.

With one of the five final sessions remaining, Tezcan Sen/Okay Gur of Turkey had built a 50-IMP lead and would be difficult to catch. Gary Gottlieb/Peter Fredin and McKenzie Myers/Joel Datloff were tied for second.

The leaders were plus for the final session, but their margin of victory had been reduced to about 30 IMPs, thanks to a huge final session by Bobby Richman/Zoltan Nagy, two of the mainstays of the Australian OzOne project. The Ladyzhensky's also had a big session to earn the bronze medals.

THE IMP PAIRS TOP 10

	IMPs
1. Tezcan SEN/Okay GUR (Turkey)	178.5
2. Bob RICHMAN/Zoltan NAGY (Australia)	149.1
3. I. & A. LADYZHENSKY (USA)	124.5
4. Gary GOTTLIEB/Peter FREDIN	117.7
5. Laurent THUILLEZ/Wilfried LIBBRECHT	116.9
6. McKenzie MYERS/Joel DATLOFF	111.6
7. Chuck BURGER/Howard PERLMAN	110.6
8. Dan MANEA/Gabriel BALITA	106.0
9. Tommy GARVEY/John CARROLL	95.4
10. M.d'OREY CAPUCHO/K. LASOCKI	87.5





Piestany, Slovakia, June 30-July 10, 2006

The 6th World Youth Pairs Championship and the 7th World Junior Camp

Young players from around gathered in Piestany, Slovakia, last summer for the sixth World Youth Pairs Championships, followed by the seventh edition of the World Junior Camp.



Cecilia Rimstedt and Sara Sivelind, the new World Junior Pairs champions who will go on record as the first all-female competitors in the history of international bridge to win an open event.

The Pairs attracted 420 players from 34 countries and five WBF zones, one of the best-attended youth bridge events ever held! The Championships were the first such event to be played in two separate series, for Juniors (up to 25 years old) and Schools (up to 20 years). It is encouraging that the inaugural Schools series attracted 34 tables, about one third of the total entry.

The venue for the championships was Hotel Sorea Slnava, on the outskirts of the spa town of Piestany, some 80 km northeast of Slovakia's capital city, Bratislava. Lodgings and play were accommodated in the same building, set amidst woods and sports fields.

Both series were four sessions with barometer scoring, which enabled participants to know the scores after each round.

SWEDISH GIRLS PREVAIL IN WORLD JUNIOR PAIRS

The Polish Juniors are always pre-tournament favourites in youth events, so it was no surprise when Jacek Kalita / Krzysztof Kotorowicz placed third after the first session. The French international stars Thomas Bessis / Julien Gaviard performed marginally better and were second, while it was impressive that the session was won by two Swedish girls, Cecilia Rimstedt / Sara Sivelind.

The second session saw a Belgian pair, Johan Fastenakels / Rutger Van Mechelen, finishing ahead of the competition, but Rimstedt/Sivelind retained the overall lead, followed by Eide / Livgard of Norway, with the American World Youth Teams Champions Joe Grue-John Kranyak in third place.

German Juniors Janko Katerbau/Martin Rehder won the third session, but the interest focused on the cumulative scores, where Kalita/ Kotorowicz took the lead, leaving Rimstedt/Sivelind in second place and Grue/Kranyak in third.

Norwegians Sverre Johan Aal / Espen Lindqvist won the final session.

However, **Cecilia Rimstedt / Sara Sivelind** added a new page to bridge history when they managed to regain the overall lead and the world title, with superstars **Jacek Kalita / Krzysztof Kotorowicz** second. The bronze medal

went to **Vincent de Pagter / Marion Michielsen** of the Netherlands, who secured a place on the podium by playing steadily throughout.

POLISH YOUNGSTERS SHARE TROPHIES IN INAUGURAL WORLD SCHOOLS PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP

In the Schools series, the first session saw Joanna Krawczyk / Artur Wasiak, a Polish pair, taking an early lead, ahead of Fruscoloni / Trimarchi of Italy and Dessain / Mela of England. Another Polish pair, Bartlomiej Igla / Artur Machno, won the second session with a score that moved them to the top of the cumulative classification, with Dessain / Mela second, Krawczyk / Wasiak third.

In the third session: Andrzej Bernatowicz / Jan Betley, yet another Polish pair, won and took the overall lead, leaving Igla / Machno marginally behind. Pierre Franceschetti / Andrea Landry, France, were third.



The World Junior Pairs Championship medalists



The World Schools Pairs medalists

Latvians Peteris Bethers / Adrians Imsa won the fourth session and moved up to fourth overall, just behind **Franceschetti / Landry**, who held on to take the bronze medals. Meanwhile, the battle for gold and silver proved a two-horse race between the two Polish pairs who led the field after the third session. In the end **Bernatowicz / Betley** were passed by **Bartłomiej Iгла / Artur Machno**, who won the first World Schools Pairs.

organization, Slovakia, one of the newest members of the international bridge family with only a handful of players, went ahead and produced an event that fully satisfied their guests. This was stressed by WBF President José Damiani, who visited the tournament site and spent some time with the participants, a gesture which was greatly appreciated by the Youth Committee and the local organizers.

AN UNFORGETTABLE WORLD JUNIOR CAMP...

The day after the World Youth Pairs Championships, the **7th World Junior Camp** began, a week-long bridge adventure held at the same venue. The camp attracted 174 players from 22 countries, setting new attendance records!

Junior Bridge Camps were introduced in Europe in 1976 and remained European events until 1995, when they were adopted by the WBF, thus opening the doors to participation from other zones. Camps are open to all young players, irrespective of their level of play. They aim at developing international under-

standing and friendships, under the umbrella of a common hobby. The Camps set very few rules, but many possibilities open to those who wish to explore them. Many great players, including some of today's World Champions, started as shy participants at the European Camps, where experience has shown that those who attended once returned again and again.

In Piastany, the daily program included both lectures, aimed at different levels of bridge experience and given by IBPA President Patrick Jourdain of Wales and former World Junior champion Klaus Reps of Germany, and physical sports. In the numerous bridge tournaments, mixing was encouraged by requiring the juniors to play with partners from different countries. Organized outings were offered to a wonderful nature location in the mountains and also to the Slovakian capital, Bratislava.



WBF Youth Awards 2006, from right to left, Nicholas RODWELL, Australia; Rosaline BARENDREGT, Netherlands; Steve DE ROOS, Belgium (missing) and Joe GRUE, U.S.A.

The **WBF Youth Awards**, established in 1989, aim at rewarding aptitude, diligence and international spirit shown by

6TH WORLD YOUTH PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIPS

JUNIOR SERIES

1. RIMSTEDT Cecilia
SIVELIND Sara SWE 60.04%
2. KALITA Jacek
KOTOROWICZ Krzy POL 59.81%
3. PAGTER Vincent De
MICHELSEN Marion NED 59.59%

SCHOOLS SERIES

1. IGLA Bartłomiej
MACHNO Artur POL 59.28%
2. BERNATOWICZ A.
BETLEY Jan POL 58.95%
3. FRANCESCHETTI P.
LANDRY Andrea FRA 58.52%

participants at the World Junior Camps. The winners do not receive any material prize, but earn the honour of enabling their countries to have a free place in the next Junior Camp. Nominations are made by the participants themselves, and the winners are decided by the Youth Committee. This year's winners were **Nicholas Rodwell** of Australia, **Rosaline Barendregt** of the Netherlands, **Steve de Roos** of Belgium and **Joe Grue** of the United States.

The 2007 World Junior Camp ended in the traditional way: an evening programme arranged by the participants themselves where individuals and national delegations performed humorous numbers, making the last event of the camp like the entire event: unforgettable...

The World Bridge Federation has announced the cancellation of the 2nd World Junior Individual Championship and the 8th World Junior Camp, which were expected to take place in Nashville, Tennessee, USA, at the end of July 2007. No WBF Junior events will be held in 2007.



Bangkok, Thailand, July 29-August 8, 2006

The 11th World Youth Team Championships

The USA retained possession of the Ortiz-Patiño Trophy, symbol of world supremacy in Junior Bridge, defending the world title won in 2005.

The Americans defeated Italy in a hair-raising final to win the World Junior Teams Championships in Bangkok, July 29-August 8, 2006. Israel kept the José Damiani Trophy in Zone 1 by winning the Schools series, defeating Latvia in an all-European final.

USA: World Junior Team champions for the fourth time, including the last two competitions.

(left to right: Justin Lall, Ari Greenberg, Joshua Donn, Jason Feldman, John Kranyak, Joe Grue. Bottom row: Joan Gerard, Jaime Ortiz-Patiño, npc Bob Rosen)



prevailed. Italy, peaking at the right moment, came from behind to take a qualifying position at the eleventh hour. The battle for the last qualifying place was won by unheralded Singapore, whose steady performance throughout was most impressive.

JUNIOR SERIES

Final Round Robin Rankings

1	USA 1	328	VPs
2	POLAND	309	
3	ITALY	304	
	SINGAPORE	304	
5	FRANCE	301	
6	ISRAEL	293	
7	NORWAY	291	
8	EGYPT	263	
9	USA 2	261	
10	CHINA HONG KONG	251	
11	BRAZIL	247	
12	HUNGARY	244	
13	CANADA	243	
14	CHILE	236	
15	AUSTRALIA	219	
16	JAPAN	188	
17	THAILAND	156	
18	JORDAN	88	

The 11th World Youth Team Championships were a tremendous success. The Junior series attracted 18 teams - the maximum possible - representing 17 countries and 7 WBF zones. The Schools series, played for the first time within the World Youth Teams Championship, was contested by 16 teams from 15 countries and 5 zones - a remarkable improvement over the first edition when 6 teams from 5 countries and 2 zones took part. In both series, the first stage was a complete round robin to qualify the top four teams for the knockout stage.

SECOND CONSECUTIVE WORLD JUNIOR TITLE FOR USA!

In the Juniors, the first half of the round robin was dominated by the pre-tournament favourites, Poland, with Israel, France, USA and surprising Singapore staying in touch, Egypt and Norway not far behind, and Italy lurking at some distance. In the second half, however, the USA took the lead and never relinquished it. Poland and Israel fought for a while for second place before Poland

USA had the right to choose its semi-final opponent and picked Singapore, leaving the two European lions, Poland and Italy, to deal with one another. In the USA-Singapore semifinal, the Americans had a handsome carryover, which they increased after the first segment. In the second they gave a little back, but improved their lead in the



third segment. It was the last segment that almost turned the match around. The Singapore Juniors staged a garrison finish to reduce the final margin to 15.5 IMPs – precisely the number of IMPs that the Americans had carried forward!

The other semifinal started practically level; Italy won the first segment, Poland took the second, and Italy the third. Those who expected a dramatic finish were disappointed. Italy gained some points in the last segment too, to win the match comfortably by 38 IMPs.

This defeat may have demoralized the Polish Juniors, who saw their hopes for the world title vanish for the second successive time (in Sydney, 2005, they lost to USA in "overtime," having tied in the 96-board match – the first instance in the annals of world bridge that this happened), as they lost the playoff for third place convincingly to Singapore.

The final between USA and Italy soon turned into a remarkably one-sided affair. After a slow start, the defending champions had an excellent third set and a very successful fourth, which gave them a lead of 96 IMPs with 16 boards to go. Many teams would have forfeited the match at this stage, but the Italians kept on playing, fought back most dynamically and created an almost impossible atmosphere of despair for their opponents. Each new board brought another swing to Italy, and the IMP difference between the teams shrunk at great speed. The audience in the Vugraph theatre "held its breath" while officials of both teams left the room, unable to cope with the tremendous tension. In the end, the Italians simply ran out of boards, but it would be difficult to deny that all were winners. The Americans had hung on to their lead until the end, but the 96-IMP advantage had been reduced to 15 IMPs – yes, the Italians had recovered 81 IMPs in 16 boards of a World Championship final!

And Bridge had won by proving once again that it can be a breathtakingly exciting sport!

ISRAEL WINS WORLD SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIP

There was much less excitement in the Schools series. Israel took the lead on

the second day of the round robin and kept it without difficulty until the end. Poland and Latvia put up very strong performances and qualified to the knockouts together with Australia. With one third of the round robin still to be played, the four eventual qualifiers were already in place, but they were threatened by Norway and USA. At the end, Australia and Latvia finished in a tie for second place, while Poland secured the last qualifying spot, finishing just ahead of Norway and USA:

SCHOOLS SERIES		
Final Round Robin Rankings		
1	ISRAEL	320 VPs
2	AUSTRALIA	285
	LATVIA	285
4	POLAND	269
5	NORWAY	266
6	USA RED	261
7	SWEDEN	245
8	USA BLUE	243
9	CHINESE TAIPEI	232
10	PAKISTAN	204
11	CHINA HONG KONG	203
12	ITALY	186
13	CANADA	181
14	CHINA	133
15	INDONESIA	114
16	THAILAND	111

Israel picked Australia and had an easy run to the final, but the other semi-final, between Latvia and Poland, was a tense affair. Latvia started with an 8-IMP carry-over and had built a handsome advantage of 31 IMPs at the halfway mark. However, Poland refused to go quietly, and a big third set gave them a 4-IMP lead, so the match was wide open going

into the final 16-board set. Latvia recovered 5 IMPs, just enough to win the 64-board semifinal by the smallest of margins – just 1 IMP!

In the bronze medal playoff, Poland had no trouble with Australia, winning by 94 IMPs.

In the final, Israel's excellence was beyond question. However, Latvia fought well, keeping the match level after the first two segments. Thereafter, it was all Israel; having already scored an enormous success with their first world bridge (silver) medal, Latvia forfeited the match when the margin had mounted to 116 IMPs.

Once the knockout stage started, all the players no longer involved in the medal hunt were invited to play in a Swiss Pairs side competition, which was open to all Junior players at the venue. In a 24-table game, played over two days, the winners were Joaquin Pacareu / Jack Smith of Chile, who prevailed over Espen Lindqvist / Joern Ringseth and Erik Berg / Allan Livgard of Norway.

The 11th World Youth Team Championships will be remembered for the excellent attendance, the excitement of the matches, the superb conditions for the participants, and the debut of the 'paperless' tournament (with computers, Bridgemate, and the Internet taking care of everything). Despite the remarkable technological advances, there is no substitute for the human touch, and above all, it was the polite, touching and most kind character of the Thai people that "made everyone's day" every day at the Bangkok tournament.



Israel:
World Schools
champions,
Eliran Argelazi,
Alon Birman,
Dror Padon,
Ron Segev,
Dana Tal,
Bar Tarnovski and
npc Gadi Lebovits.



The 3rd World University Bridge Championships



The third World University Bridge Championships were held at the University of Tianjin, in a city of 11 million inhabitants, 150 km from Beijing, the capital. The Championships, which were organized by FISU (International University Sports Federation), in association with the WBF (World Bridge Federation), attracted a field of 27 university teams from 22 countries.

The tournament was a success from every point of view: students were accommodated at the University of Tianjin in comfortable rooms; the food was excellent; the hospitality was especially warm and gracious; the playing area was easily accessible, well lit, and spacious; the standard of play was high; and media coverage (television, radio, newspapers) was extensive.

Tianjin and China were delighted to be able to host these championships at the University. The Opening Ceremony was spectacular, with a 45-minute program that captured the unique beauty of Chinese tradition.

The Scandinavian countries, especially Norway (whose students had won the European University Cup in Rotterdam the previous year), started very well in the round robin competition that would determine the medal placings. It soon became clear, however, that **China** Normal University's "mixed" team (four girls: **Shu Liu, Jing Jin, Yan Liu, Yan Wang**, and 2 boys: **Jing Liu and Xin Li**) was the team to beat. The home country won the World title convincingly, ahead of the **USA** (Joel Wooldridge / Jason Feldman, Ari Greenberg / John Barth) and **Poland** (Piotr Madry / Przemyslaw Janiszewski,

Jakub Kasparzak / Michal Nowosadzki), countries with a rich tradition of success at youth events.

During the Championships, a workshop was held with all the students and José Damiani, President of the World Bridge Federation, to discuss the future of University Bridge. A new public Internet Bridge Club especially for students - the "University Bridge Room" - was launched on BBO.

You can find a lot more information about the Championships at Tianjin, with pictures, results, bulletins at the **University Bridge Platform**: www.unibridge.org.

The Fourth World University Bridge Championships will be held in Lodz, Poland, with open invitations to students everywhere. Everyone involved hopes that the fourth edition will enjoy the same success as the third.

The next event in Europe is the University Bridge Cup, under patronage of EUSA (European Universities Sport Association) in Brugge (Belgium), August 4-9, 2007. All information on university bridge activities and events, Lodz, and Brugge can be found on the website.



China Normal University, the winning team



Worldwide Bridge Contest

Once again, the World Wide Bridge Contest was held at the beginning of June with over 10,000 pairs competing, from some 47 different countries worldwide.

Congratulations go to the winning pairs.

On the **FRIDAY** these were **Natale Francesco / Cossaro Bruna** from Amici Bridge Liegi, in Rome, **Italy** with 73.86%. The runners up were Jo Murray /

Malcolm Currie from Summertown Bridge Club, England. Third were another English pair, Steve Auchterlonie / Dave McVey from Canterbury Bridge Club.

SATURDAY saw the winning pair come from **Japan**, with **Dawei Chen / Masako Sakurai** achieving a stupendous 75.38% at Yotsuya Bridge Centre. Second were Amr Farag / Ahmed Nayer from El Gezira in Egypt. Paolo Risaliti / Antonio Bonifacio from Amici del Bridge in Rome, were third.

The 2007 Worldwide Bridge Contest will be staged on Friday June 1 and Saturday June 2.

To enter or have your questions answered, please contact Anna Gudge at one of the following:

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Mark Hodler

1918 - 2006



The world of Bridge mourns the loss of Marc Hodler, Chairman of the WBF Congress, who passed away on 18 October 2006 in Berne.

A former Vice President and Executive Board member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), Hodler served the Olympic movement for 43 years. He was President of the International Ski Federation (FIS), 1951-1998, and served as President and key administrator of the Swiss Bridge Federation 1952-1988.

Hodler won the Swiss National Bridge Championship three times, and was also a member of his country's National Ski Team, suffering a career-ending injury while training for the 1938 World Skiing Championships. After his forced retirement, he continued with the team in a coaching

role for 10 years, and then organized the Alpine Events for the Winter Olympics in St Moritz.

A trial lawyer, Hodler was fluent in English, French, German and Italian. An avid sportsman, he also played tennis, football, golf and handball, and enjoyed athletics and water sports.

Hodler was known for his integrity, dignity, character and courage. He spearheaded the acceptance of professional athletes in the Olympics, arguing that if the IOC did not make this move, only the wealthy would be able to train and compete at the top level. He was also instrumental in exposing the corruption behind the IOC's Olympic site-bidding process, leading to sweeping reforms and the removal of 10 IOC delegates.

He was the mastermind of Bridge's approach to the IOC and its eventual recognition as a sport by the Olympic movement in 1999. He was elected President of the WBF Congress in 2001. In recent years, he visited all world championship sites, discussing questions of strategy and direction with the WBF Executive Council.

For his great services to bridge, he was awarded the WBF gold medal in 1998.

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Published by: comm'unity • Paris

Realization: kalevala • Paris

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World Bridge Federation © January 2007

Printed in 5,000 exemplars by Imprimerie Exprim • France



1st PABF Women's Bridge Festival

The Pacific Asia Bridge Federation, in cooperation with the China Contract Bridge Association, staged the inaugural Women's Bridge Festival in the Yangtze River delta city of Wuxi, not far from Shanghai and Nanjing. Known for its great natural beauty as the "Pearl of Tai Hu", Wuxi is one of China's most important economic cities and its best "touristic" city. The splendid 5-star Hotel Tai Hu was the venue for the bridge activities, which included a full "open" program for PABF players and a special invitational event – the Women's Elite Tournament, for the Juno Cup. The hospitality was lavish and the organized tours very special, but the most outstanding and lasting impression was of the kindness, the smiles, and the warm atmosphere that our Chinese hosts created!

The eight teams participating in the Elite event were: Canada, China, England, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, and the United States. There was a round robin of

16-board matches, from which four teams qualified for the semi-finals. The Round Robin standings:

1. China	147 VPs
2. USA	124.50
3. The Netherlands	108
4. England	104
5. Italy	98.25
6. Sweden	91
7. Canada	82
8. Germany	74.50

In the 48-board semifinals, the **Netherlands** (Ed Franken, NPC; Hans Kelder, coach: Carla Arnolds / Bep Vriend; Jet Pasman / Anneke Simons; Meike Wortel / Marion Michielsen) beat the **United States** (Carlyn Steiner, Marinesa Letizia, Janice Seamon-Molson, Tobi Sokolow and Victoria Gromova) 126-65, while **China** (Jihong Hu and Chuancheng Ju, coaches: Hongli Wang / Ming Sun, Yiqian Liu / Wenfei Wang, Ru Yan / Yongling Dong) defeated **England** (Martin Jones, npc: Heather Dhondy / Nicola Smith, Nevena Senior / Sandra Penfold, Sarah Teshome / Catherine Jagger) convincingly, 132-27.

In the 64-board final, the **Netherlands** took an early 42-21 lead after 17 deals,

but over the next nine boards, **China** scored 61 unanswered IMPs and never looked back, winning 177-145. In the third-place playoff, **England** defeated **USA** 85-44. The other four teams played a round robin of 16-board matches to determine the final classification, which was:

1. China
2. The Netherlands
3. England
4. USA
5. Italy
6. Sweden
7. Germany
8. Canada

MONEY PRIZES (in \$US):

1: 20,000 • 2: 10,000 • 3: 5,000.

This wonderful event for women's bridge required fantastic efforts by CCBA, the sponsors, and so many volunteers, but I would like to give my personal warmest thanks and deep appreciation to Chen Zelan and Lilian Sun, key members of the CCBA administration and also members of the WBF Women's Committee, who didn't leave me for a moment!

Election of the WBF Officers

The elections took place during the First Meeting of the WBF Executive Council in Verona (Italy).

Honorary Secretary
Dan Morse

President
José Damiani

Treasurer
Jean-Louis Derivery

1st Vice-President
Gianarrigo Rona

Vice Presidents
Patrick Choy
Panos Gerontopoulos
Mazhar Jafri
George Retek

Executive Vice-President
John Wignall



REPORT

Dublin, Ireland, September 18-21, 2006

The 1st Warren Buffett Cup



With the Ryder Cup scheduled for the K-Club just outside Dublin, it occurred to Paul Hackett, Bob Hamman, and some of their associates that Bridge might piggyback on the shoulders of Golf to gain some valuable publicity by staging a similar challenge match between Europe and America in Dublin just a few days before the world's sports fans would turn their attention to one of Golf's showpiece events. With the blessing of the World Bridge Federation and the sponsorship of Warren Buffett, perhaps the world's foremost investment guru and a bridge aficionado, team captains Hackett of Europe and Donna Compton (USA) involved themselves in organizing their squads, planning strategy, and generating publicity material. The rosters:

EUROPE (on the right): Tom Hanlon/Hugh McGann, Jason and Justin Hackett, Sabine Auken/Daniela von Arnim, Geir Helgemo/Tor Helness, Norberto Bocchi/Giorgio Duboin, Jan Jansma/Louk Verhees

USA (on the left): Bob Hamman/Paul Soloway, Jill Levin/Jill Meyers, Zia Mahmood/Roy Welland, Fred Gitelman / Geoff Hampson, David Berkowitz/Larry Cohen, Bobby Levin/Steve Weinstein



by America, who won the first Buffett Cup 66-43, faring rather better than Tiger Woods and his running mates.

The competition was divided into three "disciplines" (teams, pairs, individual) -- all scored at board-a-match (win, draw, loss) converted to Buffett Points (3 for each teams match won, 2 for each pairs match won, 1 for each individual match won). Europe, with six "real" partnerships was expected to have an edge in the Pairs and Teams, but the Americans were expected to thrive in the "singles," because most of their players were comfortable with their common system and had some experience playing with one another. The teams were tied after the Pairs, but Europe took a small lead after the Teams competition. The individual, however, was dominated

Despite, or perhaps because of the Ryder Cup, the event was given a great deal of favourable publicity, which included several radio interviews. The organization and hospitality (thanks to Joe Moran, BJ O'Brien, Paul Porteous and dozens of tireless volunteers) were simply spectacular, including a police motorcycle escort to lead the players' bus through the otherwise impregnable Irish traffic. The visiting bridge players who hoped to see some of the Ryder Cup first hand were not disappointed. It would be quite an achievement for the second edition, which is expected to be held in the USA in 2008, to duplicate the magic of BC1.

The 2007 Calendar

2007	DATE	EVENT	CONTACT
March	8/18	ACBL Spring NABC, Saint Louis MO	www.acbl.org
April	15/22	Zone 8 Zonal Championships, Mombassa, Kenya	
May	12/20	Zone 4 Zonal Championships, Karachi, Pakistan	
	9/13	Zone 7 trial – Christchurch, New Zealand	
	18/27	24th CACBF Zonal, Curaçao WI	www.cacbf.com
June	1&2	World Wide Bridge Contest, clubs worldwide	www.ecatsbridge.com
	2/9	Zone 3 Zonal championships, Quito, Ecuador	
	4/13	45 th PABF Championships, Bandung, Indonesia	
	15/30	3 rd European Open Championships, Antalya, Turkey	www.eurobridge.org
July	19/29	ACBL Summer NABC, Nashville TN	www.acbl.org
Sept	29/13 Oct.	World Bridge Teams Championships, Shanghai, China	www.worldbridge.org
Nov	22/2 Dec.	ACBL Fall NABC, San Francisco NA	www.acbl.org



RANKING

2006 World Ranking

WBF Women's Top 50, 2006

Sabine Auken First in 2006 Women's ranking



Name	First name	NBO	CAT	M.P.
1 Auken	Sabine	DEU	WGM	3159
2 D'Ovidio	Catherine	FRA	WGM	2784
3 Vriend	Bep	NLD	WGM	2686
4 Willard	Sylvie	FRA	WGM	2509
5 Sokolow	Tobi	USA	WGM	2427
6 Arnim	Daniela Von	DEU	WGM	2372
7 Levitina	Irina	USA	WGM	2353
8 Gu	Ling	CHN	WLM	2347
9 Seamon-Molson	Janice	USA	WGM	2336
10 Meyers	Jill	USA	WGM	2313
11 Cronier	Bénédicte	FRA	WGM	2205

12 Wang	Wen Fei	CHN	WLM	2155
13 Quinn	Shawn	USA	WGM	2006
14 Pasman	Jet	NLD	WGM	2000
15 Sanborn	Kerri	USA	WGM	1993
16 Simons	Anneke	NLD	WGM	1986
17 Nehmert	Beate Pony	DEU	WGM	1980
18 Levin	Jill	USA	WGM	1973
19 Wang	Hongli	CHN	WLM	1953
20 Zhang	Yalan	CHN	WLM	1878
21 Bessis	Véronique	FRA	WLM	1876
22 Van Zwol	Wietske	NLD	WGM	1763
23 Breed	Mildred	USA	WGM	1641
24 Arnolds	Carla	NLD	WGM	1620
25 Dhondy	Heather	ENG	WLM	1498
26 Montin	Randi	USA	WGM	1477
27 Picus	Sue	USA	WGM	1434
28 Van Der Pas	Marijke	NLD	WGM	1432
29 Zhang	Yu	CHN	WLM	1411
30 Allouche	Danièle	FRA	WGM	1405
31 Smith	Nicola	ENG	WGM	1365

32 McCallum	Karen	USA	WGM	1327
33 Wang	Liping	CHN	WLM	1313
34 Letizia	Marinesa	USA	WGM	1291
35 Sun	Ming	CHN	WLM	1283
36 Gromova	Victoria	RUS	WGM	1254
37 Brock	Sally	ENG	WGM	1226
38 Reim	Andrea	DEU	WGM	1207
39 Ponomareva	Tatiana	RUS	WGM	1171
40 Deas	Lynn	USA	WGM	1156
41 Rosenberg	Debbie	USA	WGM	1137
42 Wei-Sender	Kathie	USA	WGM	1110
43 Steiner	Carlyn	USA	WGM	1012
44 Sutherlin	Peggy	USA	WLM	1000
45 Palmer	Beth	USA	WGM	986
46 Hackett	Barbara	DEU	WLM	968
47 Hoogweg	Femke	NLD	WLM	964
48 Kennedy	Betty Ann	USA	WGM	962
49 Weigkricht	Terry	AUT	WGM	949
50 Erhart	Maria	AUT	WGM	944

WBF Grand Masters 2006 Women's Category *

Name	First name	NBO	P.P.
1 Meyers	Jill	USA	36,5
2 Auken	Sabine	DEU	35,5
3 Sanborn	Kerri	USA	32,5
4 Arnim	Daniela Von	DEU	30,5
5 Deas	Lynn	USA	29
6 Sokolow	Tobi	USA	28
7 Smith	Nicola	ENG	28
8 Levitina	Irina	USA	26
9 Picus	Sue	USA	26
10 D'Ovidio	Catherine	FRA	25,5
11 Vriend	Bep	NLD	25,5
12 Wei-Sender	Kathie	USA	25,5
13 Landy	Sandra	ENG	25
14 Quinn	Shawn	USA	24,5
15 Radin	Judi	USA	24,5
16 Willard	Sylvie	FRA	24
17 McCallum	Karen	USA	24
18 Nehmert	Beate Pony	DEU	23,5

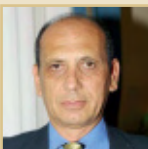
19 Mitchell	Jacqui	USA	22,5
20 Levin	Jill	USA	22
21 Seamon-Molson	Janice	USA	21
22 Kennedy	Betty Ann	USA	20,5
23 Greenberg	Gail	USA	20,5
24 Montin	Randi	USA	20
25 Palmer	Beth	USA	20
26 Letizia	Marinesa	USA	19
27 Davies	Pat	ENG	19
28 Cronier	Bénédicte	FRA	18,5
29 Breed	Mildred	USA	18,5
30 Van Der Pas	Marijke	NLD	17,5
31 Brock	Sally	ENG	17,5
32 Fischer	Doris	AUT	17
33 Weigkricht	Terry	AUT	16,5
34 Erhart	Maria	AUT	16,5
35 Pasman	Jet	NLD	15,5
36 Simons	Anneke	NLD	15,5
37 Reim	Andrea	DEU	15,5

38 Sanders	Carol	USA	15,5
39 Van Zwol	Wietske	NLD	15
40 Farell	Mary Jane	USA	15
41 Arnolds	Carla	NLD	14,5
42 Chambers	Juanita	USA	14,5
43 Allouche	Danièle	FRA	13
44 Pollack	Rozanne	USA	13
45 Bianchi	Marisa	ITA	11,5
46 Johnson	Marilyn	USA	11,5
47 Rosenberg	Debbie	USA	11
48 Gordon	Dianna	CAN	11
49 McGowan	Elizabeth	SCO	11
50 Steiner	Carlynn	USA	10,5
51 D'andrea	Marisa	ITA	10,5
52 Capodanno	Luciana	ITA	10,5
53 Gromova	Victoria	RUS	10
54 Ponomareva	Tatiana	RUS	10
55 Schulle	Kay	USA	10
56 Osberg	Sharon	USA	10

* ranked by Placing Points

WBF Open Top 50, 2006

Lorenzo Lauria First in 2006 Men's ranking



Name	First name	NBO	CAT	M.P.
1 Lauria	Lorenzo	ITA	WGM	3927
2 Duboin	Giorgio	ITA	WGM	3860
3 Versace	Alfredo	ITA	WGM	3818
4 Bocchi	Norberto	ITA	WGM	3592
5 Hamman	Bob	USA	WGM	3488
6 Meckstroth	Jeff	USA	WGM	3460
7 Rodwell	Eric	USA	WGM	3188
8 Chagas	Gabriel	BRA	WGM	2471
9 Stansby	Lew	USA	WGM	2399
10 Fantoni	Fulvio	ITA	WGM	2384
11 Nunes	Claudio	ITA	WGM	2369

12 Martel	Chip	USA	WGM	2328
13 Nickell	Frank (Nick)	USA	WGM	2159
14 Freeman	Dick	USA	WGM	2149
15 Soloway	Paul	USA	WGM	2125
16 Balicki	Cezary	POL	WGM	2104
16 Zmudzinski	Adam	POL	WGM	2104
18 Mahmood	Zia	USA	WGM	2064
19 Pszczola	Jacek	USA	WGM	1947
20 Kwecien	Michal	POL	WGM	1902
21 Rosenberg	Michael	USA	WGM	1823
22 Wolff	Bobby	USA	WGM	1718
23 Weichsel	Peter	USA	WGM	1701
24 Chemla	Paul	FRA	WGM	1633
25 Helness	Tor	NOR	WLM	1591
26 Mouiel	Hervé	FRA	WGM	1574
27 Gawrys	Piotr	POL	WGM	1574
28 Tuszyński	Piotr	POL	WGM	1574
29 Lindkvist	Magnus	SWE	WLM	1505
30 Sontag	Alan	USA	WGM	1493
31 Levy	Alain	FRA	WGM	1482

32 Brogeland	Boye	NOR	WLM	1457
33 Branco	Marcelo	BRA	WGM	1442
34 Fredin	Peter	SWE	WLM	1436
35 Helgemo	Geir	NOR	WLM	1426
36 Saelensminde	Erik	NOR	WLM	1415
37 Jassem	Krzysztof	POL	WLM	1391
38 Lasut	Henky	IDN	WLM	1318
39 Berkowitz	David	USA	WLM	1260
40 Karwur	Franky	IDN	WLM	1255
41 Manoppo	Eddy	IDN	WLM	1233
42 De Falco	Dano	ITA	WGM	1206
43 Kowalski	Apolinary	POL	WIM	1175
44 Sacul	Denny	IDN	WLM	1165
45 Martens	Krzysztof	POL	WGM	1164
46 Cohen	Larry	USA	WLM	1153
47 Ferraro	Guido	ITA	WLM	1152
48 Brink	Sjoert	NLD	WIM	1149
49 Multon	Franck	FRA	WGM	1131
50 Jansma	Jan	NLD	WIM	1105

WBF Grand Masters 2006 Open Category *

Name	First name	NBO	P.P.
1 Hamman	Bob	USA	97
2 Garozzo	Benito	USA	75,5
3 Wolff	Bobby	USA	70,25
4 Forquet	Pietro	ITA	58
5 Meckstroth	Jeff	USA	49
6 Rodwell	Eric	USA	48,5
7 Soloway	Paul	USA	43
8 Chagas	Gabriel	BRA	40,5
9 Lauria	Lorenzo	ITA	39,5
10 Stansby	Lew	USA	38
11 Martel	Chip	USA	37,5
12 Branco	Marcelo	BRA	34,5
13 Versace	Alfredo	ITA	34
14 Duboin	Giorgio	ITA	30
15 Bocchi	Norberto	ITA	30
16 Chemla	Paul	FRA	28
17 Freeman	Dick	USA	27
18 Nickell	Frank (Nick)	USA	26,5
19 Eisenberg	Billy	USA	25,5
20 Lawrence	Michael	USA	23,5
21 Perron	Michel	FRA	23

22 Ross	Hugh	USA	22
23 Balicki	Cezary	POL	21,5
24 Zmudzinski	Adam	POL	21,5
25 Fantoni	Fulvio	ITA	21
26 Nunes	Claudio	ITA	21
27 Mouiel	Hervé	FRA	21
28 Sontag	Alan	USA	19,5
29 Mari	Christian	FRA	19,5
30 Helness	Tor	NOR	19
31 Rosenberg	Michael	USA	19
32 Lebel	Michel	FRA	18,5
33 Branco	Arturo	ITA	18
34 Weichsel	Peter	USA	17,5
35 Gawrys	Piotr	POL	17
36 Cintra	Gabino	BRA	17
37 Mahmood	Zia	USA	16,5
38 Helgemo	Geir	NOR	16,5
39 Martens	Krzysztof	POL	16,5
40 Rubin	Ira	USA	16,5
41 Mello	Roberto	BRA	15,5
42 Levy	Alain	FRA	15
43 Passell	Mike	USA	15

44 Deutsch	Seymon	USA	15
45 De Falco	Dano	ITA	14,5
46 Assumpcao	Pedro Paulo	BRA	14,5
47 Kantar	Edwin	USA	14
48 Hamilton	Fred	USA	13,5
49 Levin	Bobby	USA	13
50 Meltzer	Rose	USA	12,5
51 Pszczola	Jacek	USA	12
52 Kwecien	Michal	POL	12
53 Bates	Roger	USA	12
54 Larsen	Kyle	USA	11,5
55 Branco	Pedro Paulo	BRA	11,5
56 Tuszyński	Piotr	POL	11
57 Lesniewski	Marcin	POL	11
58 Rubin	Ron	USA	10,25
59 Multon	Franck	FRA	10
60 Fonseca	Christiano	BRA	10
61 Krejns	Hans	NLD	9,5
62 Siniscalco	Guglielmo	ITA	4

* ranked by Placing Points



Shanghai 2007

Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup & Seniors Bowl
World Transnational Open Teams Championships
From 29th September to 13th October

THE CHAMPIONSHIPS (Provisional Programme)

The Opening Ceremony will be on 29th September 2007, at the invitation of Chinese Bridge Association.

The Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup & Senior Bowl: Round Robin will start on Sunday 30th September and finish on Saturday 14th October, with the final knock-out stages starting on Sunday 7th.

In these 3 events the Quarter Final will end before the start of the **Transnational Open Teams** on Monday 8th October, allowing people who want to play this event to be free on time.

The Closing Ceremony, which will include the prize giving, followed by a victory banquet/or Cocktail will take place on Saturday 13th October.

In accordance with the provisional schedule, the play will start daily at 10.00/10.30 a.m. and finish at 7.30/8.30 p.m., except on Oct 8th when play will be extended to 11.00/11.30 p.m.

THE WORLD TRANSNATIONAL OPEN TEAMS

The 6th World Transnational Open Teams Championships is a prestigious and most enjoyable event. Being Transnational, it

is open to teams composed of players coming from different countries, nominated by their National Bridge Organisation and approved by the WBF Credentials Committee.

It is a great opportunity for players to participate in a wonderful bridge tournament while at the same time having a unique opportunity to experience all the atmosphere and excitement of the final stages of the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup and watch some of the greatest players in the world on the first class vugraph presentation. Players wishing to compete in this Championship should contact their NBO and request nomination by the end of July 2007. There is no quota, and NBOs may nominate as many teams as they wish to compete in this great tournament.

Players eliminated from the Round Robin of the Bermuda Bowl & Venice Cup, as well as those from the Seniors Bowl will be able to enter the World Transnational Open Teams Championship free of charge if they enter as a complete team. If they join players who are coming to Shanghai just to play in this event, then a substantial discount on the entry fee is offered.

The World Transnational Open Teams will take place during the second week, starting in the late afternoon on Monday 8th October. The format will be Swiss Teams. It is normally played as 10-board matches (3, 4 or 5 per day) for 15 qualifying rounds (150 boards). The Quarter Final will start on Thursday late afternoon, the Semi Final will be played on Friday 12th October and the Final will end on Saturday 13th October.

REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION OF TEAMS

- Bermuda Bowl / Venice Cup 15th June
- Seniors Bowl 15th June
- World Transnational Open Teams 15th June

REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS NAMES

- Bermuda Bowl / Venice Cup / Seniors Bowl 1st July
- Seniors Bowl 1st July
- World Transnational Open Teams 15th September

PAYMENT OF ENTRY FEES

- Bermuda Bowl / Venice Cup US\$ 3,500 1st July
- Seniors Bowl US\$ 3,500 1st July
- World Transnational Open Teams US\$ 1,000 15th September
(4 or 6 new players)

Players & NPCs (but not coaches) from the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup & Seniors Bowl may participate in the World Transnational Open Teams free of charge if they enter as a complete team of such players. This applies even if they are from different countries or series.

If players from the main Championship events join players coming to Shanghai to participate in the WTOTC the following discounts on the entry fees will be offered:

- For teams containing 1 player /NPC who participated in the Championship events: \$850
- For teams with 2 such players: \$750
- For teams with 3 such players: \$500
- For teams with 4 such players: \$350
- For teams with 5 such players: \$200

REGISTRATION OF SYSTEMS

- Bermuda Bowl & Venice Cup & Senior Bowl 10th August

ENTRIES must be sent to:

The World Bridge Federation
40, rue François 1^{er}
75008 Paris - France
cfrancin@worldbridgefed.com

SYSTEMS

For **Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup & Senior Bowl**, the conditions of contest will give full details of systems regulations and registration, but players should note that it will be a requirement that all systems are registered in advance via e mail to Anna Gudge: anna@ecats.co.uk

No HUM, or Brown Sticker conventions will be permitted at any stage of the Round Robin in either the Bermuda Bowl or Venice Cup nor will they be permitted at any stage of the Senior Bowl.

Pairs wishing to register Brown Sticker systems for use in the KO phase must register these, together with the relevant BS forms, by 10th August 2007. No extension to this deadline will be accepted.

THE VENUE

Shanghai is situated on the estuary of Yangtze River of China. It is the largest industrial city in China.

Originally, Shanghai was a seaside village and in time its gradual development led to it being granted County status during the Yuan Dynasty (13th Century). Today's Shanghai is a multi cultural metropolis with both modern and traditional Chinese features. Modern Shanghai has three key areas of interest to the visitor:

- sightseeing
- it is a shopper's paradise
- a wide variety of cuisines can be found in the city.

The play will take place at the Shanghai International Convention centre (<http://www.shicc.net/en/briefing.htm>) a truly wonderful venue for this important championship. It is a luxury 5-star convention centre and hotel facing the historic Bund of Huangpu river.

The main hotel will be: Oriental Riverside Hotel and other hotels nearby will also be available at a variety of prices.

The participants can make the hotel booking through Mr. Pan Zhong Long Email: xujianguo188@163.com
Fax: 00 86 21 64396295
Tel: 00 86 13701656108



HOTEL INFORMATION

Hotels	Number of rooms	Distance to venue	Time to the venue by car	Quotation for the stay From Sep. 29 to Oct. 14 <small>Dollar price conversion as at 14/6/06</small>	Quotation only for the stay World Transnational Open Team <small>Dollar price conversion as at 14/6/06</small>
***** Oriental Riverside Hotel	limited	Next door	0	\$185	Contact Mr Pan Zhong Long
***** Intercontinental Pudong Shanghai	200 rooms	1.5 km	10 min	1200 RMB (\$150)	1320 RMB (\$165)
***** Purple Mountain Hotel	230 rooms	1.5 km	10 min	1000 RMB (\$125)	1100 RMB (\$140)
**** Courtyard Marriot Shanghai - Pudong	200 rooms	1.5 km	10 min	870 RMB (\$110)	950 RMB (\$120)
*** Shanghai Changhang - Merrylin Hotel	100 rooms	1.5 km	10 min	500 RMB (\$65)	550 RMB (\$70)

All the fees above including breakfast, the hotels will charge service fees. The service charge is thought to be 15%