

World Bridge News



EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Eric Kokish

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Dear Friends

It is an honor and privilege to write an official message as President of the World Bridge Federation.

It is not an easy task for me to take this chair after the "giants" who preceded me, to carry forward the vital work that they have done. I take the occasion to thank once again Jaime Ortiz-Patiño, Ernesto d'Orsi, Bobby Wolff and José Damiani: for giving me the opportunity to work with them and to learn so much from them. I aspire to be considered a good pupil.

Looking back over the past years, my first thought goes to José Damiani because of the extraordinary job he did in developing bridge and consolidating the WBF, before passing the baton to me to continue the relay, which links our past, present and future.

We are all grateful to José for the solid heritage that he has left us, even more impressive when we consider the great difficulties he had to face in the last few years, due to the major economic crisis, the instability and insecurity which trouble the world and the changes that are affecting our society and lifestyles, directly influencing and interfering with our organization and the bridge-playing world.

As it seems unlikely that the societal trends for the immediate future will change dramatically, it is essential to focus on the conditions that influence bridge activity; we need to analyze them in detail in order to develop a realistic program for the future. Although we live in a difficult period, we must continue to work with passion, dedication, enthusiasm and great optimism, in order to achieve our goals.

The next four years should mark the definitive consolidation of the WBF, its structure and organization. It should create a solid and unshakeable base from which we can operate without undue short-term pressure.

In the world bridge community, we are fortunate to have access to a vast pool of volunteers with the strengths and skills to fill the positions and provide the services essential to the smooth functioning of our organization. However, at this time we need to ensure that roles are clearly defined, that appointments and assignments are well balanced, and that responsibilities do not overlap. To do our jobs properly and to ensure progress in the organization, it is vital that lines of communication remain open: free speech, innovative thought and frank debate are essential ingredients.

Another guiding principle is absolute respect for the rules that we already have in place and, naturally, for any new rules that we will formulate as time passes. The rules must be the same for everyone and must be seen to apply everywhere. If the rules are wrong or inadequate, they must be changed, but while they are in place their spirit and intent must be applied without exception. Only by being servants of the Law can we be free.

Many focal points have to be examined and discussed in depth by the Executive Council to find the right solution, finalized to make our Federation and our discipline even stronger. We are already working on them and I hope and believe that we will be equal to this task.

This year we have two great events that offer the opportunity to enjoy our beloved sport and enhance its image: in the last ten days of August, we are staging the World Youth Congress in Opatija, Croatia; and in the second half of October, we are organizing the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup, d'Orsi Senior Bowl and the World Transnational Open Teams Championship in Veldhoven, The Netherlands.

I am sure that on both these occasions we will be able to celebrate once again a memorable event, thanks to the warm welcome from the towns and their people, and the dedication of the organizers, who are already working hard in order to offer the best possible services to the participants. Above all, however, I know we can look forward to a strong turnout and enthusiastic participation by bridge players from all over the world. I will be happy and proud to be there with my colleagues to meet with you. I am confident that I will enjoy your friendship, cooperation, support and assistance; together we will realize our dreams.

Un abbraccio

Gianarrigo Rona, WBF President

BIOGRAPHY

Gianarrigo Rona was born in Rome, 18 November 1940, and currently resides in Milan with his wife, Cippi, and stepdaughter, Carlotta; he has two grown-up children, Claudia and Gianmatteo, from a previous marriage. A practising lawyer (the third in a family of lawyers, now in its fourth generation) until 2002, he was for 20 years a Board Member of the Order of Lawyers and for eight years – first as Administrator and then as President Vicarious – involved with the operations of the National Lawyers' Pension Fund. In addition, he was a member of the Association of Lawyers of Italy and America.

Rona played basketball in the Italian First Division. He was a member of the Technical Commission for the Italian Motorboat Federation (1982/83). He was a member of the National Council of the Italian Olympic Committee (CONI) since his election in 2005, and was re-elected for the legislature 2009/2013. In 2006 he was awarded by CONI the Sportive Merit Gold Star. In 2001 he received from IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch the IOC Golden Diploma.

Rona has played bridge at the international level and ranked in the highest Italian category. He was elected to the Board of Directors of FIGB in 1979, became President in 1986, and retained that posi-

tion through 2009. During his Presidency, FIGB was recognised by the Italian National Olympic Committee. Rona served as NPC of the Italian Open Team from 1984 to 1986, Chairman of the Organising Committee of EUBL Championships in 1979 and 1998, the European Open Pairs Championships in 1989, 1991 and 1995, the European Junior Teams Championship in 1982, the European Open and Women's Teams in 1985, and the Olympiads of 1988 and 1992.

Elected to the EBL Executive Committee in 1995, Rona served as Treasurer from 1997 to 1999, then as President from 1999 to 2010. During his Presidency, EBL approved the new Statutes, introduced the Disciplinary Code and the Official TDs Register, and instituted the European Bridge Champion's Cup, the European Open Championship and the European Girls Bridge Teams Championship.

Rona has been a member of the WBF Executive Council and Management Committee since 1999, 1st Vice President since 2006, was elected President in Sao Paulo in 2009, and took the chair in 2010, succeeding José Damiani, at the conclusion of the World Bridge Series in Philadelphia.

José Damiani

WBF President 1994-2010

In 1990 at the Geneva World Championships, the World Bridge Federation (WBF) Executive Council, in an unprecedented move, offered the presidency to Ernesto d'Orsi and Bobby Wolff, each of whom would serve a two-year half term as designated successors to Denis Howard. That was a turbulent period in WBF's history, with strained international relations all too prevalent. However, at the 1994 World Championships in Albuquerque, after first d'Orsi and then Wolff had restored some peace and stability through their distinctive leadership styles and ideas, the Executive Council elected José Damiani of France the WBF's ninth president for a traditional four-year term.



Damiani, born in 1939, learned bridge while studying law and economics at the University of Paris, but, after graduating, had little time for the game, devoting most of his time to his career and more physical sports. From 1962-69, he worked in the energy industry, and then started his own water treatment business before turning to public relations and company consultancy in 1977; running a successful sports marketing company provided a strong foundation when bridge organization became his central focus.

When a sports injury made it impossible for him to fully enjoy tennis and skiing, José directed his attention to bridge. He joined the French Bridge Federation (FFB) in 1970, and his play improved quickly after returning to the game: three years later he had reached the first division and by the late eighties he had won five national championships and had represented his country internationally several times, earning three medals in European competition. A World International Master, José was non-playing captain of the French open team

increases that propelled France to leading roles in the European and international bridge communities. José joined the European Bridge League (EBL) Executive Committee in 1979, became First Vice President in 1981, and was elected EBL President in 1987. He was re-elected in 1991 for a second four-year term. By the time he stepped down in 1995, he had succeeded in raising the membership considerably and in safeguarding the league's financial health by doubling the number of registered members, by nearly doubling the number of member national federations, and by securing sponsorship support that created a valuable reserve. While José was in office, many development-sensitive areas, including bridge education, women's bridge and youth bridge, surpassed expectations and flourished.

Damiani's first participation in WBF activities came in 1983 as an EBL representative, and he became more intimately involved as First Vice President in 1986, gaining valuable experience that prepared him for his election as President in 1994. His initiative, wide-ranging contacts, and ability to build consensus made him an easy choice for re-election in 1998 and again in 2002 and 2006, which made him the longest serving President in the history of the WBF.

He pursued the same goals for bridge development, but also devoted a lot of energy to building a case for having bridge acknowledged as a sport. During his term, the WBF was accredited by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) first as a Recognized Sport Organization (1995), then as an International Sports Federation (1999), which was the final prerequisite for formal consideration as an official Olympic Games sport. Bridge had a strong ally in the late Marc Hodler of Switzerland, a bridge player and IOC Vice President whose efforts were

instrumental in getting the game approved as an official sport by the IOC, and there appeared to be adequate support for getting bridge into the Games in some fashion. However, when the positively-inclined Juan Antonio Samaranch stepped down as IOC President, his successor, Jacques Rogge, ruled against including bridge in the Olympics, a disappointment for José and for bridge. In addition, the WBF is now a member of ARISF (Association of the IOC-Recognized International Sports Federations) and SportAccord, the biggest international sport organization, bringing together all (about 100) Olympic and non-Olympic International Federations. In 2005, José created the International Mind Sports Association (IMSA), which held its first World Mind Sports Games in Beijing in 2008. As IMSA was successful in finding sponsorship and significant funding, WBF was able to invite and cover expenses for nearly 110 youth teams and 25 women's teams. The current plan is for the second edition of WMMSG to be held in Manchester, England, after the 2012 Summer Olympics in London.

In 2010, at the conclusion of the World Bridge Series in Philadelphia, after an unprecedented four terms at the helm, Damiani officially turned over the Presidency to Italy's Gianarrigo Rona.

Damiani has safely shepherded WBF through some difficult times, during which the world has changed significantly and yet the game has developed dramatically and thrived on many different levels. To lead, build and maintain consensus in an organization as diverse as the WBF for 16 years is in itself a remarkable achievement, but José has also rapidly and efficiently moved the organization forward technologically and logistically, helped to keep it afloat with innovative sponsorship initiatives, increased the number of member National Bridge Organizations, registered players, and participants in WBF events, added a new WBF Zone (Africa, Zone 8), and improved bridge's image on the world's sporting stage.

Of all his accomplishments as president, Damiani is especially proud of the technical advances he has helped to bring to the sport of bridge:

"During the last 16 years I have endeavored to drag the WBF into the 21st century, making full use of all the new technology that is now available to us: first-class bridge tables with full screens, bidding boxes, symmetrical playing cards, virtually perfect computerized deal duplication through Duplimate machines, instantaneous scoring with the implementation of Bridge Mates, advanced Vugraph capability through Bridge Vision, and even computerized lineup submissions and postings.

"By the next WBF Team Championships in the Netherlands in October, 2011, development will be completed for an automated recording system with web cam and an electronic reader that will allow every match to be broadcast on the Internet, creating many new options for spectators. The emerging technology will create complete and accurate records of the bidding and play, eliminating the need for recording personnel and inevitable human error.

"Though computer bridge programs were only the germ of an idea in the early nineties, the 14th edition of the World Computer Bridge Championships in Philadelphia revealed just how far this domain has progressed."

Damiani has always been a "players' president," keeping in mind the comfort and well-being of the players while also trying to make the image of bridge more dynamic. Pursuing his belief that bridge should be a celebration for all who love the game, he has created and developed new events, like the Transnational Teams and additional mixed, senior, and youth championships, but also those who have not (yet) achieved that status.

By making the World Championships accessible to many more players, José has been able to advance his goal of "Bridge for Peace." A list of the sites for the WBF's annual World Championships reads like a travelogue for bridge players to

explore the world: Beijing (twice), Rhodes, Hammamet, Lille, Bermuda, Maastricht, Paris (moved from Bali at the last minute in September, 2001), Montreal, Monte Carlo, Istanbul, Estoril, Verona, Shanghai, Sao Paulo, Philadelphia. That José has invariably managed to find the right blend of desirable venues, first-class playing conditions, professionally staged events, luxury and budget accommodations to satisfy the requirements and tastes of active players in 125 member nations is no small feat.

With the support of UNESCO, José has had success in introducing bridge as a curriculum subject in some European nations, and initiatives are projected in Asia, Africa and the USA (with the support of Bill Gates and Warren Buffett). Convinced of the importance of getting more young players into the game, Damiani has always stressed that while the WBF can provide leadership in this area the national federations must be willing to follow up and put in the required effort.

Successfully managing an organization of diverse personalities and nationalities has been challenging, but José takes pride in having maintained an effective dynamic with so many caring people members of the Executive Council, professional tournament and support staff, and countless volunteers - who have worked in harmony for the good of bridge for all these years.

Damiani says he intends to remain heavily involved in the organization, and plans to participate in future world championships, perhaps more frequently as a player, his passion for all aspects of the game has not diminished.

On behalf of bridge players everywhere, this is the right time to say,

"Thank you, José,"
thank you very much

• THE 9 th WORLD BRIDGE SERIES CHAMPIONSHIPS	Page 3
• 2 nd WORLD YOUTH BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS	Page 39
• 2011 CALENDAR	Page 29
• THE 2010 BUFFET CUP CHALLENGE CUP	Page 26
• THE WBF WOMEN'S COMMITTEE	Page 26
• WORLD WIDE BRIDGE CONTEST	Page 25
• 2010 WORLD RANKING	Page 25
• 40 th WORLD TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS	Page 27



MIXED PAIRS (Consolation) PLATE (213 pairs, three sessions)

- 1 • Jing Rong RAN - Zijian SHAO China 60.40
- 2 • Leslie PARYZER - Stephen GOLDSTEIN USA 58.32
- 3 • Shannon CAPPELLETTI - George COLTER USA-CAN 58.12



Mixed Pairs Plate Gold:
Zijian SHAO
Jing Rong RAN
with Ernesto d'Orsi



Mixed Pairs
Plate Silver:
Leslie PARYZER
Stephen GOLDSTEIN



Mixed Pairs
Plate Bronze:
Shannon CAPPELLETTI
George COLTER

ROSENBLUM CUP OPEN TEAMS

The entry of 144 teams was considerably short of the 173 that turned out in Verona. The top four teams from each of 16 seeded groups would qualify for the 64-team knockout phase after three days of internal round robins of 16-board matches, deals duplicated across the field.

The top 16 seeds in the knockout phase would be assigned on the basis of the average WBF master point holdings of each team's three "top" players, but the rest of the draw would be based on teams' rankings within their group during the round robin phase; thus, there was at least a theoretical reward for 48 teams for a strong performance over the first three days. Through the round of 16, the knockout rounds would feature 56-board matches, but the quarterfinals and semifinals would cover 60 deals and the final 64; boards duplicated across the field.

Some groups were inevitably quite a bit stronger than others, and although most of the top two seeds in each group survived to the knockout stage, there were a few casualties in that elite group. In the round of 64, though most of the top seeds prevailed, there were some fiercely contested matches between strong teams randomly drawn against one another after the field was re-seeded on the basis of the round robin results. A prime example: **Berg** (Berg / Mohan, Muller / de Wijs, Bertens/ Bakkeren) defeated **Schwartz** (Schwartz / Granovetter, van Prooijen/ Verhees, Rubin/Ekleblad) 110-82 in a match between US sponsored teams featuring three different front-line Dutch pairs.

Then there was Ireland's potent **Green Machine** (Hanlon / McGann, Mesbur / Fitzgibbon, Garvey / Carroll vs **British Lions** (Punch / Rees, Goodman / Ash, A and P Gipson), an unseeded UK team that had won its group: the Irish won a derby of sorts 128-83 after falling behind early.

Gordon (Gordon / Rajadhyaksha, Cheek / Grue, Aa / Molberg) vs **China Open** (W Wang / Z Zhang, Hou / J Li, J Liu / M Shi) was an unlucky draw for two genuine contenders: China won 102-76 with a big final quarter.

Bulgaria's **Vito** (Popov, Skorchev, Rusev, Trendafilov, Karaivanov) bested group winner **Deutsch** (Deutsch / Chang, Karakolev / Danailov, Gold / Townsend 127-78, Deutsch being able to plead that perhaps he needed more than his two Bulgarians to overcome Vito's five.

Pinot Noir (M and T Bessis, J Gaviard / Ventin, Chagas / Levy), fell to Austria's **Alizee** (Fischer / Saurer, Jokisch / Kasimir) 95-116.

Koneru (Koneru / Chorush, D Wolpert / Korbjel, L'Ecuier / Demuy) bested **Budimex Poland** (Zawislak, Starkowski, Wojcicki, Pazur, Janiewiczski, Golebiowski) 83-74 in a low-scoring match, thanks to a 28-8 fourth stanza.

Canada (N and J Gartaganis, Klimowicz/ Campbell, Willis / Thurston) led **Fredlin** (Fredlin / Fallenius, Nystrom / Bertheau, Zagorn / Bathurst) after three quarters but a 56-25 final set won it for Fredlin.

The round of 32 featured one-sided wins by most of the top seeds and only a few close matches. One of the more interesting pitted **O'Rourke** (O'Rourke / Jacobus, Bates / Wold, Drijver / Brink) against **Meltzer** (Meltzer / Larsen, Sontag / Berkowitz, Jansma / Paulissen): though Meltzer, whose ranks included three of the defending champions, took a substantial lead in the first quarter, the rest of the match was all O'Rourke, who won 139-115.

In **China Open** vs **Mahaffey** (Mahaffey/ Cohler, Lev / Pszczola, Fu/ Zhao) the defending World Open Pairs champs had to face their colleagues on the Chinese national team and were obliged to congratulate them after Mahaffey bowed out 86-108.

The closest match was between **Vito** and **Josef and Cards** (Piekarek / Smirnov, S Auker / von Arnim, R and C Welland): Vito trailed by 22 going into the last set but won it 40-14 to pull out the match 126-122.

Consus Red Poland (Beling, Filipowicz, Lewaciak, Nowosadzki, Walczak, Zadroga), originally unseeded in its group, took another

scalp in this round, eliminating **Berg**, 147-100, after dispatching **Blal** (Blalal, Abedi, Ter Laare, Mohiuddin, Aksuyek, Hakim), a surprise group winner, in the round of 64.

Only nine of the original top 16 teams had protected their seed into the third knockout round. Though seven of the eight matches were reasonably close, not all of them were tight affairs throughout.

Zimmermann	52	25	42	47	166	
O'Rourke	99	39	16	25	19	99

Zimmermann (Zimmerman / Multon, Helgemo / Helness, Fantoni/ Nunes) won all four sets from O'Rourke to win big, the major move coming in the final stanza.

Consus Red Poland	8	19	42	38	107
Strul	42	26	41	24	133

The Cinderella Polish team got off to a poor start against **Strul** (Strul / Becker, Brogeland/ Saelensminde, Garner / Weinstein) and could make little headway in the second half, bowing out after a nice run.

China Open	45	13	57	7	1*	123
Vito	61	34	2	25	7*	129

In a wild encounter, **China Open** and **Vito** were tied at 122 after 56 boards, but Vito won the four-board playoff 7-1 (*) to reach the quarterfinals.

Diamond	21	39	38	23	121
Lavazza	38	9	20	29	96

An inevitable effect of making the World Bridge Series transnational is that sponsors are able to sign up their favorite pairs so that in many cases national teams are not in a position to retain the services of their leading lights. Which is how it came to pass that the **Lavazza** team (Duboin / Sementa, Bocchi / Ferraro, Sadek / El Ahmady) in Philadelphia included two Egyptian stars. The **Diamond** team (Diamond / Platnick, Gitelman / Moss, Hampson / Greco), five of whose members had represented USA and Canada in the 1991 World Junior Championships, continued its strong 2010 run by trading on excellent second and third quarters to eliminate Lavazza.

Cayne	28	13	1	50	92
Wolfsen	28	31	40	8	107

Cayne (Cayne / Seamon, Lauria / Versace, Balicki / Zmudzinski) fell far behind **Wolfsen** (Wolfsen / LN Cohen, M Rosenberg / Willenken, Ginosar / Pachtmann) after three sets, but rallied in the fourth only to run out of boards.

Alizee	2	39	37	32	110
Fleisher	34	8	53	25	120

Alizee and **Fleisher** (Fleisher / Kamil, Levin / Weinstein, Stansby / Martel) traded dominant quarters but the Americans hung on to end the Austrians' hopes.



Robinson	67.5	13	18	23	121.5
Fredlin	27.5	26	17	25	95.5

Robinson (Robinson / Boyd, Woolsey / Stewart, Doub / Wildavsky), the 2009 US Trials winners, may have been slight underdogs against **Fredlin**, but a 40-IMP first quarter proved conclusive for Robinson.

Martens	56	21	11	23	111
Nickell	20	29	22	47	118

Second seeded **Nickell** (Nickell / Katz, Meckstroth / Rodwell, Hamman / Zia) immediately fell behind **Martens** (Martens / Jassem, Kopecky / Kurka) by 36, and with eight boards left were 40 IMPs behind and in need of a miracle finish. Nickell scored 47 unanswered IMPs over that stretch to win 118-111. Just another day at the office for a team that so often lives on the edge and survives.

Though all four quarterfinal matches figured to be competitive, only one really met expectations.

Zimmermann	34	26	37	19	116
Strul	23	16	14	16	69

Though there were no lopsided sessions in **Zimmermann** vs **Strul**, Zimmermann won all four of them en route to a 116-69 victory.

Vito	3	7	16	--	26
Diamond	61	31	51	--	143

Diamond, with three well-rested partnerships, demolished the tiring five-man **Vito** team, with Vito scoring less than a half IMP per board and resigning after 42 deals.

Wolfsen	44	22	30	12	108
Fleisher	11	40	18	23	82

After a big first quarter, **Wolfsen** saw a big chunk of its lead wiped out in the second set before building the lead to 27 after three. **Fleisher** came back but could not overcome its deficit against a team in good form.

Robinson	8	10	34	13	65
Nickell	39	29	29	35	132

In a showdown between the two teams that represented USA in the Sao Paulo Bermuda Bowl, Nickell had much the best of it, keeping **Robinson** in check.

And then there were four:

Zimmermann	37	8	22	20	87
Diamond	40	42	31	34	147

Though three of the four quarters were close, Diamond won all of those and rode a big second quarter to a convincing 60-IMP win over the top seed.



Wolfson	42	22	11	28	103
Nickell	37	27	25	18	107

This one was close all the way, tied at the half, Nickell ahead by 14 with one set remaining. It looked bleak for Wolfson, down 26 with four to play, but the trailing team gained 22 IMPs over those guys will tell you, it was there to be won at the very end.

The 64-board final featured two of the leading American teams in recent years, the Diamond team coming off a win in the 2010 Springfield, Nickell a win the 2009 Bermuda Bowl. The match was characterized by an unusually high number of slam zone swings that could have gone either way, several of them involving dramatic play and defense.

Diamond	34	42	14	31	121
Nickell	39	17	13	9	78

It must be said that Diamond's troops (John Diamond / Brian Platnick, Fred Gitelman / Brad Moss, Geoff Hampson / Eric Greco) played some wonderful bridge and were full value for their win, holding the mighty Nickell team (Nick Nickell / Ralph Katz, Jeff Meckstroth / Eric Rodwell, Bob Hamman / Zia Mahmood, Donna Compton, npc, Eric Kokish, coach) to less than an IMP and a quarter a board on a collection of lively deals.

With one session remaining, Diamond was 21 IMPs ahead, and the first deal was yet another close slam decision, 6♠ requiring trumps to come in missing Q973 and no diamond ruff on a nine-card ft missing the ace (though 6♦ would have been a better proposition).

Board 49 North None Vul.	♠ K 10 6 5				
	♥ 5 4 3				
	♦ K 10 5				
	♣ A 10 6				
		♠ Q 9 3			
		♥ J 10 8 7 6			
		♦ 3 2			
		♣ K J 7			
				♠ A J 8 4 2	
				♥ A K	
				♦ Q J 9 8 7 6	
				♣ -	



Rosenblum Gold
(with Joan Gerard):
Eric GRECO
John DIAMOND
Fred GITELMAN
Geoff HAMPSON
Brian PLATNICK
Brad MOSS

Hampson/Greco stopped at 5♠ after RKC revealed that the trump queen was missing, and made six, aided by a 3♣ overcall from Zia, whose bid contributed to declarer guessing the ♠Q correctly: +480. Meckstroth/Rodwell reached 6♠ when a different sort of asking sequence did not focus on the trump queen. Moss, who had perhaps serendipitously remained silent over a strong club with 1=3=2=7 shape, neither side vulnerable, led ♦A, and after much thought, a second diamond. Meckstroth played two high trumps and went down one: -50. Those 11 IMPs got Diamond off to a positive start, and soon thereafter came another slam deal where the teams chose different levels...

Board 52 Dealer West All Vul.	♠ Q J 4 2	♥ 8 3	♦ Q 8 7 6 5	♣ 9 8
	♠ K 8	♥ A 10 7 6 5 4	♦ N	♣ W E
	♠ J 9	♥ E	♦ A K 4 2	♣ K 4 3 2
	♠ A 7 5	♥ 10 9 7 5	♦ Q 9 2	♣ 10 3
		♥ Q J 10 6	♦ -	♣ -

Open Room		North	East	South
West		Greco	Hamman	Hampson
Zia		Pass	2 ♣	Pass
1 ♥		Pass	2 NT	Pass
2 ♥		Pass	3 ♥	Pass
3 ♣		Pass	6 ♥	All Pass
4 ♥		Pass		

Six hearts is where you'd like to be, and at first glance it would appear that declarer needs to find the queen of trumps (though there may be some squeeze chances). North led the ♠Q and declarer won in hand, played a diamond to the ace, cashed the ♠A, and ruffed a spade. A diamond to the king was followed by a diamond ruff, South innocently discarding a club. Declarer cashed two clubs, ending in dummy and played a diamond, ruffing when South parted with his remaining spade. Down to A107 of trumps and a losing club, Zia exited with a club and showed his hand; whoever took the trick would be endplayed; he had made his slam in elegant fashion, without having to guess which opponent held the ♥Q.



Rosenblum Silver:
Zia MAHMOOD, Eric RODWELL, Eric KOKISH (coach),
Donna COMPTON (npc), Bob HAMMAN, Nick NICKELL
Jeff MECKSTROTH and Ralph KATZ

Pretty as that line of play was, South could have created a losing option for declarer by means of an unusual gambit of his own (mentioned by IBPA Bulletin Editor John Carruthers): "An interesting defense would have been for Hampson to discard his last spade on the third diamond, then to ruff the fourth diamond with the nine of hearts, keeping all his clubs. Zia overruffs with the ten and must guess whether the remaining hearts are two-two, in which case he must play trumps from the top, or three-one with North, in which case low to the jack is the percentage play. On the existing layout, if he exits with a club after over-ruffing, he is down by force on a trump promotion when Hampson plays that jealously-husbanded fourth club, the eight of trumps playing a crucial role."

Closed Room		North	East	South
West	Rodwell	Gitelman	Meckstroth	
Moss				
1♥	Pass	2NT	Pass	
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass	
4♥	Pass	4NT*	Pass	
5♥	Pass	5♠	Pass	
SNT	Pass	7♥	All Pass	

On board 32, Diamond had gained 10 IMPs, when Hampson / Greco had been permitted to make an anti-percentage 7♠ while Nickell / Katz had stopped at 6♥. Now, 20 boards later, Diamond's charges were again in a questionable grand slam where their counterparts stopped more reasonably a level lower. Moss's 3♥ was supposed to be a slam try, so when he denied the ♥Q in response to RKC, Gitelman placed him with at least a seventh heart, and after unearthing the ♠K (the SNT response to the 5♠ specific-king ask), bid 7♥, expecting a trump lead most of the time that North did not have the queen. How's that for planning the play in the bidding?

Perhaps Moss was so relieved to see Rodwell's lead of the ♥3 that he erred by playing the jack from dummy, assuming North would not lead from the ♥Q against seven, playing the king gains rather dramatically when South has been dealt the singleton queen, a lively possibility. However, Moss survived on the actual lie, taking the queen with the ace. He crossed to the ♥K, came to hand with the ♠K, drew the last trump, discarding a club, and led the ♥J, winning the ace when Rodwell did not cover. King of diamonds, diamond ruff revealed the layout of that suit. Moss cashed a heart, discarding another club, and played ♠K, ♠A, and his remaining trumps. Rodwell had to guard diamonds, Meckstroth



Rosenblum Bronze:
Franck MULTON, Pierre ZIMMERMANN,
Geir HELGEMO, Claudio NUNES,
Fulvio FANTONI, Tor HELNESS

clubs, so neither could guard spades, and the ♠6 took the thirteenth trick. Moss's double squeeze gave him +2210 and 13 IMPs where he would have lost 17 had he gone down in 7♥, a mere 30-IMP swing. Diamond led 118-70 IMPs with 12 deals to play, and on this occasion, Nickell was fresh out of miracle finishes.

In the 32-board playoff for third, Zimmermann (Pierre Zimmermann / Franck Multon, Geir Helgemo / Tor Helness, Fulvio Fantoni / Claudio Nunes) bested Wolfson 98-46 to earn the bronze medals.

Zimmermann	61	37	98
Wolfson	12	34	46

THE MCCONNELL CUP WOMEN'S TEAMS

31 teams entered this event. They were divided into two seeded groups to play complete internal round robins of 10-board matches, with the top eight in each group to qualify for the 16-team knockout stage. In other respects, including re-seeding for the knockout, the McConnell paralleled the Rosenblum.

The qualifying round went largely according to form. The first knockout round in the McConnell was the round of 16, with the same potential for arbitrary matchups as in the Rosenblum.

Moss	52	40	23	18	133
Glasson	4	14	52	49	119

Moss (Moss / Radin, Quinn / Zur Campanile, Brock / N Smith) vs Glasson (Glasson / L Berkowitz, Wheeler / Bernstein, Picus / Greenberg) was a match that would usually take place deeper in an American knockout event. Moss took a huge first-quarter lead and piled it on in the second, but Glasson fought back fiercely only to run out of boards.

Eisenberg	22	71	16	19	128
Fierman	12	30	52	52	146

Eisenberg (C Goldberg / J Sprung, L Lewis / R Pollack, Bjerkkan / P Wittes, Billy Eisenberg, npc) built a handsome 53-IMP lead at the

China Women	41	19	35	68	163
Sombra...fresca	9	14	11	20	54

Italia	17	37.5	17	22	93.5
Full Spectrum Options	56	41.5	54	8	159.5

Westheimer	6	56	42	56	160
Can/USA	22	11	19	15	67

Joel	35	69	20	31	155
Indonesia Djarum	17	39	43	15	114

Sweden	19	58	19	7	103
Hampton	6	38	55	40	139

Netherlands	23	36	42	31	132
Kranyak	14	36	21	8	79

McConnell Cup Bronze: Daniele GAVIARD; Phyllis FIREMAN; Shannon CAPPELLETTI; Catherine d'OVIDIO; Victoria GROMOVA; Tatiana PONOMAREVA (missing Paul FIREMAN, coach)

McConnell Cup Silver:
Hans KELDER, coach; A. van REENEN, npc;
Martine VERBEEK; Anneke SIMONS; Bep VRIEND; Carla ARNOLDS;
Wietske van ZWOL; Jet PASMANN; with José Damiani

China Women	64	16	26	31	137
Fireman	6	15	47	28	96

Hampton	5	16	15	-	36
Netherlands	64	8	61	-	133

The 64-board final featured two of the top teams entered and there was no clear favorite, although China had won the previous World Championship in Sao Paulo with a slightly different lineup.

China	37	7	31	59	134
Netherlands	23	29	9	32	93

Both 2♦ responses were game-forcing, but the North players preferred different rebids. In the Open Room, Simons had a shrewd idea that spades was the weak spot for N/S, and led the ♠5 against Gu's ♦4. Declarer took dummy's ace and started on diamonds to try for spade discards. Had East ruffed here, the contract would have failed before declarer could catch her breath, but Pasman discarded a spade and the ♦A won. Gu crossed to the ♦K to play the ♦K, ruffed low and over-ruffed. Declarer continued with ♠A, club ruff and the ♦Q. When East discarded (somehow curiously), Gu threw a spade ruff the

Board 51

Dealer South

EW Vols.

♠ A 9 8 ♥ J 9 ♦ K Q 10 7 5 ♣ K 9	♠ Q J 6 2 ♥ A 6 4 3 N W E S - - + -	♠ J 10 7 4 2 ♥ 10 4 3 ♦ K Q 8 5 2 ♣ A 6 5 3
---	---	--

Open Room		North	East	South
West	Simons	Lu	Pasman	Gu
Pass	2	♦	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	2NT		Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3	♦	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	4	♥	All Pass	3 ♥

Closed Room		North	East	South
West	Wang	Verbeek	Sun	van Zwoil
Pass	2	♦	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	3	♦	Pass	2 ♥
All Pass			Pass	3NT



next diamond, ruffed her last club in dummy and led another diamond through East, losing only one spade and two trump tricks when West scored the ♥ 10 on a trump promotion on the fifth round of clubs: +420.

In the Closed Room, Verbeeck's 3♦ left van Zwoel with an awkward third bid, and she guessed to gamble 3NT with no spade guard. Wang found the best lead of a low spade, and declarer ducked two rounds before taking the ace at Trick 3. Van Zwoel crossed to the ♥ A, learned of the bad break when East threw a club, and led a heart to dummy's jack. Ming Sun took her ace, cashed the long spade, and shifted to a low club to the queen and king. On the ♦ K, Sun threw a club, and on the ♦ K a heart Declarer, with a club entry to hand, needed to take a trick with the ♥ 8 in the four-card ending. She knew West's shape was either 3262 or 3163, and if she believed West's play of the ♠ Q on the first round and East's two club discards before parting with a heart, perhaps the first combination was more likely. Van Zwoel reached a different conclusion, however, and passed the ♥ 9 to go two down: -100. China gained 11 IMPs and led by 27. Had 4♥ been beaten and had 3NT been made, the Netherlands would have gained 10 and reduced the deficit to just 6 IMPs.

In the 32-board playoff for third, Fireman (Phyllis Fireman / Shannon Cappelletti, Catherine D'Ovidio / Daniele Gaviard, Victoria Gromova / Tatiana Ponomareva, Paul Fireman, coach), defeated Hampton 86-51.

SWISS PLATE TEAMS CONSOLATION (43 teams)

This was a one-day Swiss event, scored at Victory Points, open to teams that did not qualify in the round robin and round of 64 of the Rosenblum and the round robin of the McConnell.

The medalists were:

- 1 • **116 VP Villa Fabbriche (Italy)**
Dario ATANASIO / GUSEPPE, Mario D'AVOSSA / Riccardo INTONTI, Alberto GULLOTTA / Stefano SABATTINI, Filippo PALMA, npc
- 2 • **112 VP China Nangang Power (China)**
Lixin YANG, Jia Xiang SHEN, Bangxiang ZHANG, Xinli GAN, Qiang ZHANG, Sheng Hong CHEN, Rui WANG
- 3 • **112 VP Texan Aces (India)**
Gopal VENKATESH / Jyotindra SHAH, Ramratnam KRISHNAN / K Raman VENKATARAMAN, S SUNDARAM / Padmanabhan SRIDHAR, Maddhav PRABHU, npc

Rand Cup Gold:
Garey HAYDEN; John HOLLAND; Gunnar HALLBERG
Reese MILNER; Paul HACKETT

RAND CUP SENIOR TEAMS

The short event, played over four days, called for a two-day, 10-round Swiss Qualifying stage of 10-board matches, with 24-board quarterfinals and semifinals on the third day, and a 48-board final on the fourth. Although only 34 teams participated, the field was remarkably deep. In fact, the list of non-qualifiers was almost as strong as the teams that made the cut. These were the qualifiers:

1 •	Gabriel UI	194
2 •	Japan Yamada	179
3 •	Capital Gang	176
4 •	Markowicz	174
5 •	Tulin	167
6 •	Cohen	164
7 •	McGowan	162
8 •	Hackett	161.21

Just missing out by 0.15 VP was one of the pre-tournament favourites, the primarily Israeli Kaminski team (Kaminski, Sheinman, Birman, Schwartz, Romik, Levit), and .05 behind Kaminski was a solid Australian team, True Blue (Lavings, Neill, Kanetkar, Fischer, Solodar, Sundelin); Lair; Sternberg (Sternberg, Hamilton, Cedolin, Mari); Canada Master Point Press (Caruthers / Silver, Gowdy / Kirr, Baran / Schoenborn; Schaffer / Vernay, L and G Bart); Tornay (G and C Tornay, Garozzo / Dupont); DeMartino (De Martino, McDewitt, Stiefel, Brod), and - stunningly - Wolff (Wolff / Morse, Gerstman / Finkel, D McGarry / Levine), 33rd of 34.

THE QUARTERFINALS

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:

Gabriel UI	26	55	81
McGowan	9	1	10

Gabriel UI (Lasut/Manoppo, Sacul-Sawiruddin-Hartono), Indonesia's sponsored senior team, was a tough draw for McGowan (McGowan/Liggat, D and S Fraser), a Scottish/Canadian foursome, but the lopsided score was not what the line-setters had in mind.



Hackett	42	9	51
Capital Gang	27	5	32

With three members of the English team that won the Seniors Bowl in Sao Paulo, Hackett (Hackett, Holland, Hallberg, Hayden, Milner) had realistic hopes of duplicating that success, with the addition of Hayden, one of the most successful American seniors, and Milner. Capital Gang (USA): Abelow, Bragin, King, Hand, Ruderman, Wegman, stayed in touch throughout, but Hackett prevailed.

Markowicz	36	15	51
Tulin	20	11	31

Team Markowicz (Markowicz, Russyan, Ramer, Klukowski, Melman, Zeigman), with three silver medalists from the Polish Sao Paulo Seniors Bowl, vs Tulin (Tulin / Kasle, Schermer / Chambers, Casen / R Smith), with an all-star American cast, figured to be the closest match of the day. Markowicz won both sets and survived to the semifinals.

Cohen	38	21	59
Japan Yamada	44	12	56

Cohen (Cohen / Satten, Poe / Weik) vs Japan Yamada (Yamada / Ohno, Hirata / T Yoshida) was another difficult match for the line-makers, and it lived up to its billing. Cohen's US team eking out a narrow victory.

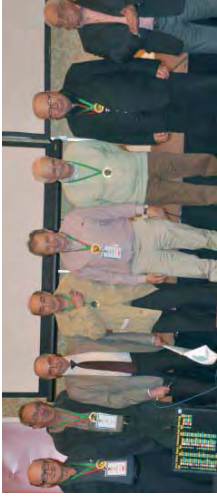
THE SEMIFINALS

Gabriel UI	0	30	30
Hackett	35	21	56

In one semi-final, Hackett came out with guns blazing and shut out the Indonesians 35-0 over the first 12 boards. Gabriel UI recovered a few IMPs in the second half, but Hackett moved on to the final on the long end of the 56-30 score.

Markowicz	20	25	45
Cohen	27	14	41

It's tough to live on the edge, and perhaps the tension of their morning match took its toll on Cohen. In another nail-biting



Rand Cup Silver:
Victor MARKOWICZ; Salek ZEIGMAN; (José Damiani); Victor MELMAN;
Jerzy RUSSYAN; Roald RAMER; Julian KLUKOWSKI; (Ernesto d'Orsi)

finish, Cohen fell to Markowicz by 4 IMPs, setting up a rematch between Hackett and Markowicz in the final.

THE FINALS

Hackett	72	39	44	155
Markowicz	11	39	33	83

This time the final lacked the drama that it had in Sao Paulo. A huge first set by Hackett (Paul Hackett, John Holland, Gunnar Hallberg, Garey Hayden, Reese Milner) left Markowicz (Victor Markowicz, Salek Zeigman, Victor Melman, Julian Klukowski, Jerzy Russyan, Roald Ramer) 61 IMPs behind with 24 to play, and when the trailing team made no headway in the second segment, Hackett cruised home with a comfortable 72-IMP win.

Gabriel UI (Henky Lasut / Eddy Manoppo, Denny Sacul / Munawar Sawiruddin / Michael Bambang Hartono) beat Cohen 101-32 for the Bronze.

RAND CUP SENIOR TEAMS PLATE (Consolations) I and II

These two one-day Swiss events, scored at Victory Points, followed the same format as the other Teams Plate. Edition I attracted 23 teams, Edition II only 10. The top three in each event were:

PLATE I

- 1 • **114 VP PRI Investments (Poland/Sweden)**
Jack ROMANSKI / Apolinary KOWALSKI, Josef BLASS / Jerzy ZAREMBA, Anders MORATH / Sven-Olaf FLODQVIST, Jacek PSZCZOLA, npc
- 2 • **112 VP Sternberg (USA)**
Jim STERNBERG, Fred HAMILTON, Arnie FISHER, John SOLODAR, PO SUNDELIN
- 3 • **111 VP Capital Gang (USA)**
David ABELOW, Barry BRAGIN, Fred KING, Jeff HAND, David RUDERMAN, Richard WEGMAN

Rand Cup Bronze: Gabriel UI:
Munawar SAWIRUDDIN; Henky LASUT; Eddy MANOPPO;
Michael Bambang HARTONO; Denny SACUL

PLATE II

- 1 • **112 VP Tulin (USA)**
Stanley TULIN / Gaylor KASLE, John SCHERMER / Neil CHAMBERS,
Drew CASEN / Ron SMITH
- 2 • **108 VP Cassini (Finland)**
Pirja JUURI-OJA, Seppo KASTREN, Matti SIHVOLA, Vaino KELHA,
Eeva PARVAINEN, Erkki JUURI-OJA
- 3 • **103 VP Shane (USA)**
Steve SHANE, Ahmed HUSSEIN, Gene DAVIDSON,
Ed and Diane LAZARUS

GENERALI OPEN PAIRS

The centerpiece of the World Bridge Championships is the 15-session Open Pairs, which attracted a starting field of 248 pairs. After five sessions, the top 182 of those pairs would qualify for the five-session semifinal, and somewhere between 50 and 60 of their number would be joined by a number of pairs dropping in from the late stages of the Rosenblum teams to create a 72-pair, five-session barometer final. There would be no carryover from either the qualifying stage or the semifinal, so the key would be survival, aiming for average-plus in Stage One, rounding into form for Stage Two, with a strong finishing charge in the final. Easier said than done, of course.

That there would be no carryover from one phase of the event to the next was bad news for the leaders of the first stage, who were:

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1 • Jessica HAYMAN PIAFSKY - Nicolas L'ECUYER | 57.57 |
| 2 • Taufik Gautama ASBI - Robert Parasian TOBING | 56.87 |
| 3 • Dawei CHEN - Kazuo FURUTA | 56.58 |
| 4 • Thomas CHARLSEN - Thor Erik HOFMANSKA | 56.56 |
| 5 • Suni CHOKSHI - Subhash GUPTA | 56.42 |
| 6 • Michal KWIECEN - Włodzimierz STARKOWSKI | 56.29 |
| 7 • Rajesh DALAL - Anil PADHYE | 56.20 |
| 8 • Ai-Tai LO - Alan SCHWARTZ | 55.92 |
| 9 • Bogusław GIERULSKI - Jerzy SKRZYPCZAK | 55.92 |
| 10 • Andrew STARK - Franco BASEGGIO | 55.83 |

And even worse news for the leaders after the semifinals, who were:

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1 • Cezary BALICKI - Jacek PSZCZOLA | 60.58 |
| 2 • Ricco van PROOIJEN - Louk VERHEES JR | 59.68 |
| 3 • Xinli GAN - Qiang ZHANG | 57.87 |
| 4 • Vladimir MIHOV - Jerry STAMATOV | 56.18 |
| 5 • Honey B PRABHAKAR - Rajeshwar TEWARI | 55.86 |
| 6 • Brian GLUBOK - Philip GORDON | 55.72 |
| 7 • Tom HANLON - Hugh MCGANN | 55.39 |
| 8 • Gheorghe SERPOI - Calin STIRBU | 55.08 |
| 9 • Alexander DUBININ - Andrey GROMOV | 55.06 |
| 10 • Piotr GAWRYS - Piotr TUSZYNSKI | 55.06 |

With a large number of drop-in pairs (21), there were only 51 additional places in the final available for the 182 semifinalists,

a truly brutal cut which left several pairs who had averaged over 51.5% on the sidelines. This is such a great event that it deserves to stand on its own, perhaps with fewer sessions and a tournament schedule that allows the semifinals to begin when the Rosenblum finishes. Perhaps moving the Mixed Pairs to the end would provide that flexibility.

With one session remaining in the final, there were three drop-in pairs in the top ten. Looking particularly strong were the leaders, Bobby Levin/Steve Weinstein (USA), whose record in pair games has been something special; with a significant lead, they would be tough to catch. Meanwhile, the defending champions from China, Zhong Fu/Jie Zhao, after qualifying comfortably, were a disappointing 61st, with 46.89%.

The last time this event was held, Levin / Weinstein had to settle for the silver medals, but this time, the Americans took the lead early and kept it to win by more than two tops. Silver went to Sweden's Björn Fallenius / Peter Fredin, with Josef Plekarek / Alexander Smirnov of Germany earning bronze.

- | | | |
|--|-------------|-------|
| 1 Bobby LEVIN - Steve WEINSTEIN | USA | 57.58 |
| 2 Björn FALLENIUS - Peter FREDIN | Sweden | 55.86 |
| 3 Josef PIEKAREK - Alexander SMIRNOV | Germany | 54.94 |
| 4 Vladimir MIHOV - Jerry STAMATOV | Bulgaria | 54.55 |
| 5 Fulvio FANTONI - Claudio NUNES | Italy | 54.27 |
| 6 Eric GRECO - Geoff HAMPSON | USA | 53.85 |
| 7 Ricco van PROOIJEN - Louk VERHEES JR | Netherlands | 53.78 |
| 8 Martin FLEISHER - Mike KAMIL | USA | 53.66 |
| 9 Lixin YANG - Ban Xiang ZHANG | China | 53.25 |
| 10 John HURD - Joel WOOLDRIDGE | USA | 53.20 |
| 11 Taufik G. ASBI - R. Parasian TOBING | Indonesia | 52.99 |
| 12 Bob HAMMAN - Mike PASSELL | USA | 52.66 |
| 13 Honey B PRABHAKAR - R. TEWARI | India | 52.37 |
| 14 Jan JANSMA - Gert Jan PAULISSEN | Netherlands | 52.31 |
| 15 Gheorghe SERPOI - Calin STIRBU | Romania | 52.12 |
| 16 Tim COPE - Glen HOLMAN | S Africa | 52.10 |
| 17 Steve GARNER - Howard WEINSTEIN | USA | 51.93 |
| 18 Dawei CHEN - Kazuo FURUTA | Japan | 51.83 |
| 19 Boye BROGELAND - Gavin WOLPERT | SWE-USA | 51.68 |
| 20 Marc BOMPIS - J-Christophe QUANTIN | France | 51.46 |

Generali Open Pairs Gold:
Robert LEVIN
Steve WEINSTEIN



Below on the left:
Generali Open Pairs Silver:
Björn FALLENIUS
Peter FREDIN

Below on the right:
Generali Open Pairs
Bronze:
Alexander SMIRNOV
Josef PIEKAREK



Recording a complete top on a deal in the final of an elite 72-pair field is no mean feat, particularly when it's not by dint of collecting a huge penalty or setting a silly contract. Freshly crowned Rosenblum champions John Diamond and Brian Patrick accomplished that in the third session of the Generali Open Pairs final by bidding and making a solo grand slam on this deal:

Board 24 Dealer West Neither Vul.	♠ 7 3 2	♥ 10 9 2	♦ 5 4	♣ K J 8 7 4
	♠ A K 8 5	♥ Q 8 4 3	♦ J 9 2	♣ 10 3
	♠ -	♥ A 7 6	♦ A K 7 6 3	♣ A Q 6 2
	♠ Q J 10 9 6 4	♥ K J 5	♦ Q 10	♣ 9 5
	♠ N	♥ W	♦ S	♣

HIRON SENIOR PAIRS

The format was a four-session preliminary stage to qualify 28 of the initial 44 pairs for a four-session barometer final. Male non-qualifiers could enter the Mixed Teams if fortunate enough to find some precious "loose" women (so to speak).

Americans Dan Morse/John Sutherland were second after one qualifying session, but led at the end of each of the next three. The top five qualifiers:

1 • Dan MORSE - John SUTHERLIN	59.16
2 • Julian KLUKOWSKI - Victor MARKOWICZ	56.92
3 • Bruce NODA - Mark RALPH	56.78
4 • Rich DEMARTINO - Patrick McDEVITT	56.58
5 • Christian MARI - Stanley WALTER	56.52

After the first final session, New Englanders Rich DeMartino / Pat McDevitt were just over average, but a 65%+ second session vaulted them into the lead, which they held the rest of the way. With one session to play they held an almost insurmountable 3% lead over the field. The top 10:

1 • Rich DeMARTINO - Patrick McDEVITT	USA	55.63
2 • Kyoko OHNO - Akihiko YAMADA	Japan	54.70
3 • Farid ASSEMI - Edward WOJEWODA	USA	54.38
4 • Julian KLUKOWSKI - Victor MARKOWICZ	Poland	53.88
5 • Roald RAMER - Jerzy RUSSYAN	NETH-POL	53.77
6 • Sam LEV - Reese MILNER	USA	52.78
7 • Art GULBRANDSEN - Michael SPERO	USA	51.67
8 • Robert BITTERMAN - Jerry HELMS	USA	51.50
9 • Amikar MAGALHAES - Pedro MANDELOT	USA	50.93
10 • Jerry GAER - Markland JONES	USA	50.85

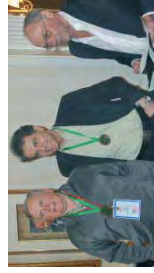
For DeMartino the victory was icing on the cake for a successful year as ACBL President. Silver medalists Kyoko Ohno / Akihiko Yamada of Japan, longtime weak notrumpers, have been a force in world senior events since they opted out of open competition about five years ago. Americans Farid Assemi / Edward Wojewoda were passed by Ohno / Yamada near the end and settled for bronze.

Hiron Cup Gold:
Pat McDEVITT
Richard DeMARTINO,
with José Damiani.



Below on the left:
Hiron Cup Silver:
Akihiko YAMADA
Kyoko OHNO

Below on the right:
Hiron Cup Bronze:
Edward WOJEWODA -
Farid ASSEMI,
with José Damiani.



IMP PAIRS

The 131 pairs that entered the IMP Pairs would play four qualifying sessions over two days. The five-session barometer 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 Mixed Teams, a new championship event. As in the other pair events, there would be no carryover into the finals of the IMP Pairs.

Leading the qualifiers after the four-session first stage were:

1 • Peter BERTHEAU - Gunnar HALLBERG	10553.6
2 • Joao-Paulo CAMPOS - Miguel VILLAS BOAS	8876.8
3 • Willem van EIJCK - Nicolas HAMMOND	8447.3
4 • Jaroslaw CIESLAK - Piotr ZAK	8167.6
5 • Claire TORNAY - George TORNAY	8097.7
6 • R Jay BECKER - Robert SARTORIUS	7375.8
7 • Marjorie MICHELIN - Carlos PELLEGRINI	7192.3
8 • Isabella VARGAS DE ANDRADE - Stanley BARG	6881.8
9 • Bob ETTER - Bob MORRIS	6395.1
10 • Paul THURSTON - Mike RIPPEY	5789.5

Wolfe Thompson / Marc Zwerling held a substantial lead going into the last session, but Joao-Paulo Campos / Miguel Villas Boas, who had been at or near the top throughout the event, were "momentum" players capable of a hot run. Though the pairs in second and third made up some ground, the leaders won in convincing fashion. The top 20:

1 • Wolfe THOMPSON - Marc ZWERLING	USA	5778.2
2 • Joao-Paulo CAMPOS - Miguel VILLAS BOAS	Brazil	5485.4
3 • Kelley HWANG - John ZILIC	USA	5402.0
4 • Thomas CHARLSEN - Thor Erik HOFSTANSKA	Norway	4697.6
5 • Art David GREENBERG Jr. - Billy MILLER	USA	4448.2
6 • Daniel WILDERMAN - K. ZUCKERBERG	USA	4022.0
7 • Gary COHLER - Eric ROBINSON	USA	3916.0
8 • Waldemar FRUKACZ - K.KOTOROWICZ	CAN-POL	3666.0
9 • Ricardo ANGELERI - Marcelo VILLEGAS	Argentina	3404.2
10 • Julien GAVIARD - Juan Carlos VENTIN	FRA-ARG	3177.4
11 • Michal KOPECKY - Josef KURKA	Czech Rep	3014.8
12 • Andrew ROSENTHAL - Aaron SILVERSTEIN	USA	2811.2
13 • Willem van EIJCK - Nicolas HAMMOND	NETH-USA	2495.0
14 • J BRYANT - Mark LAIR	USA	2028.4
15 • Bobby JONES - Jim KREKORIAN	USA	1987.6
16 • Serge BERGHEIMER - J-CI FOUASSIER	France	1934.0
17 • Judith GARTAGANIS - N. GARTAGANIS	Canada	1804.0
18 • Bogdław GIERULSKI - Jerzy SKRZYPCZAK	Poland	1787.9
19 • Ahmed HUSSEIN - Apolinary KOWALSKI	EGY/POL	1582.0
20 • Bob ETTER - Bob MORRIS	USA	1508.0

Overlooked in the excitement was the fact that the winners had struggled to qualify, finishing... 71st with a below-average IMP score. Yes, they were the last qualifiers. Thompson had given up bridge for many years and had only recently taken up the game seriously; this was the first world championship in which he had participated.

Of the published deals from the IMP Pairs, this one, from the third qualifying session, is perhaps the most interesting.

North, Venezuela's Steve Hamaoui, found himself in 3NT in two bids.

On East's fourth-best spade lead, declarer played low from dummy and had a third fast winner in the suit when the king appeared. Hopeful that there were many tricks on the

horizon, Hamaoui cashed the ♠K, and continued with the ten. East's heart discard was a disappointment, but declarer passed the trick to West, who switched to the ♥K. Communications were far from fluid, but declarer did well to duck the ace, calling for dummy's jack. West knew the heart position and might have switched to diamonds, but he continued with a low heart. Declarer put in the ten and cashed the ♥A, East parting with a diamond in order to keep all his spades. Next came a low diamond, East following low. The queen won, and on the ♠A, declarer released a spade, leaving East with an awkward discard: as he could not afford the ♠J lest declarer cash the ♠J and duck a diamond for an overtrick, East discarded a spade. Hamaoui cashed the spade and played a diamond; East took the jack and ace but had to lead from the ten-eight of spades around to the ace-nine.

It was not easy for East to find the winning defense, although he might have foreseen the possibility of being endplayed; had he played the jack on the first diamond trick, West's ten-nine would prevent declarer from ducking a diamond to East.

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

MIXED SWISS TEAMS

This event started when the four major pairs events moved into their final stage. Seventy teams entered. The first stage was a seven-round Swiss of 10-board matches (25 VP maximum, else split 30 VP), with 24 teams to qualify for a five-match final. Qualifiers would carry forward their entire VP score, so in effect it was a 12-round Swiss for qualifiers. The Non-qualifiers could play in the five-round Swiss Plate Consolation.

The Hinze team held the lead through two of the five final matches but fell to third, eked back into second, and won the final round 23-7 to finish 6 VP clear of second. The Top ten finishers:

1 • Hinze	USA-CAN	226
2 • Narasimhan	USA	220
3 • Steelers	USA	217
4 • Hauge	NOR-BUL	213
5 • Hansen	AUS-SWED-BUL	208
6 • O'Rourke	USA-NETH	207
7 • Ida	USA-CAN-NETH-SWE	205
8 • India Alizee	IND-AUS-ISR	203
9 • Amigos	BRAZIL	201
10 • Frind	FRA-IND	198

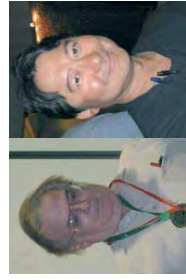
Hinze (Greg Hinze, Daniel Lavee, JoAnn Sprung, Connie Golberg, Dale and Lynn Johannessen) was a last-minute pickup team that celebrated its joint and several first date with a serving of gold. Narasimhan's all-star team (Hansa Narasimhan, Irina Levitina, Eddie Wold, Ron Smith, Jill Levin) had to settle for silver. The bronze went to Steelers (Robb and Linda Gordon, Sylwia and Mike McNamara, Jo Morse, Warren Oberfeld); Morse won an earlier version of this event in 1974 in the Canary Islands.



Mixed Swiss Teams
Gold:
Lynn JOHANNESSEN
Dale JOHANNESSEN
Connie GOLDBERG
Daniel LAVEE
JoAnn SPRUNG
Greg HINZE



Mixed Swiss Teams Silver:
Eddie WOLD; Irina LEVITINA;
Jill LEVIN; Ron SMITH;
Hansa NARASIMHAN



IMP Pairs Bronze:
John ZILIC - Kelley HWANG



IMP Pairs Silver:
Miguel VILLAS BOAS
Joao Paulo CAMPOS



Mixed Swiss Teams Bronze:
Robb GORDON; Jo MORSE;
Mike McNAMARA;
Sylwia McNAMARA; Linda GORDON;
Warren OBERFELD



MIXED SWISS PLATE (consolation)

In this event, too, teams carried forward their VP from the qualifying stage, which might explain why only 35 of the 46 eligible teams participated. The top three finishers were:

1 • 207	Cushing	TUR-USA-BUL	Justine CUSHING, Matilda POPULOV, Melih OZDIL, Namik KOKTEN, Tuna ALUF
2 • 197	Goldstein	USA	Steve GOLDSTEIN, Leslie PARYZER, Sheila GABAY, John STEFEL
3 • 189.56	Willenken	USA	Chris WILLENKEN, Migry ZUR CAMPANILE, Alison WILSON, Kent MIGNOCCHI

WORLD YOUTH EVENTS

ORTIZ-PATIÑO TROPHY WORLD JUNIOR (U-26) TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

Seventeen teams representing six of the eight WBF zones (Africa and CAC did not participate) made up the field, which had a distinctly European flavor (eight teams). The first stage was a round robin of 10-board matches, played over four days, the odd number of teams necessitating a bye round.

France, Australia, Israel and both American teams included a number of players clearly on the rise, but this event is often the coming-out party for players from countries that don't get much international press coverage.

With two matches to play, Israel and USA1 looked safe, with France in good shape, but there were still 10 teams separated by less than half a match vying for the other five places in the knockout stage.

There were some exciting moments in the last two rounds. USA1 lost 10-20 and 0-25 to contending teams, but dropped the only one place as Israel and France closed well to leave the pack behind. Both Canada and Netherlands, who were in the top eight with one round to play, faced teams near the bottom



Ortiz-Patiño Trophy Gold:
Israel

Lotan FISHER
Ron SCHWARTZ
Micha AMIT
(Chef de Mission)
Eliran ARGELAZI
Gilad OFIR, npc
Alon BIRMAN
(Zia Mahmood, crashing!)
Bar TARNOVSKI

of the table. Had either of them done 1 VP better in their last match they would have qualified, but as it went they tied for ninth, a half point behind Australia, the last qualifier. The eight qualifiers:

1 •	Israel	307.5
2 •	France	289
3 •	USA1	267
4 •	China	264
5 •	Germany	261
	Russia	261
7 •	Sweden	257
8 •	Australia	257.5

For the 40-board quarterfinals, the top four round robin teams chose from the bottom four, which set up the following matchups:

Israel	74	34	108
Russia	37	18	55
Sweden	41	31	72
USA1	70	28	98
China	66	39	105
Australia	25	39	64
Germany	27	4	31
France	19	34	53

Though all the top four teams won, both France and USA1 lost one of the 20-board halves. The margin of victory for China over Australia was a surprise of sorts, as the internationally experienced South Pacific team was one of the medal favorites. Rosters of the quarterfinalists:

Israel: Argelazi, A Birman, Fisher, Tarnovski, Schwartz
Russia: Kekrasova, Veselov, Volozhenin, Dobrin
Sweden: Apslund, Fryklund, Arvidsson, Béch
USA1: Fay, Fournier, R Lee, Wolkowitz, Majica, Chiu
China: Y Chen, J Hu, Z Lin, Y Liu, Y Shao, D Zhuo
Australia: A and E Edgton, Gosney, Howard, Hung, Whibley
Germany: R Braun, Katerbau, Rehder, Weyand, Wuermseer, F Zimmermann
France: T Bessis, Grosset, L'huissier, Lorenzini, Robert, Volcker

In the 56-board semifinals, the top seeds won in some comfort, both chalking up the same number of IMPs in the plus column, but Israel doing so in only 42 boards as the Americans resigned with one set to play:

Israel	43	48	38	--	129
USA1	13	13	24	--	50
China	29	22	26	52	129
France	53	54	29	49	185

The Israelis had dominated the event, but the French juniors had been nearly as impressive, so the 64-board final figured to be a close match. It didn't look as if would turn out that way...

Israel	58	28	48	35	169
France	9	26	43	73	151



Ortiz-Patiño Trophy Silver: France
Thomas BESSIS, Frédéric VOLCKER, Christophe GROSSET, Cédric LORENZINI,
Quentin ROBERT, Nicolas L'HUSSIER, Philippe CRONIER, npc

Israel (Eliran Argelazi, Alon Birman, Lotan Fisher, Bar Tarnovski, Ron Schwartz, Gilad Ofir, npc) took a huge lead in the first set and added to it in the second and third quarters to build a 56-IMP advantage going into the final stanza, which would conclude the event on the final morning of the tournament.

Apparently, the night of rest did wonders for the French (Thomas Bessis, Christophe Grosset, Nicolas L'huissier, Cédric Lorenzini, Quentin Robert, Frédéric Volcker, Philippe Cronier, npc), who started with 15- and 18-IMP gains on the first and third deals and were suddenly back in the match.

With one board remaining, France had reduced its 56-IMP deficit to just 4 IMPs, and that deal had the potential for a slam swing. When Grosset /Lorenzini emerged with +650 in 5 ♠ on a distributional hand with lots of potential to go wrong, the French supporters took heart, but at the other table, Bessis/Volcker took an advance save at 5 ♠ at favorable vulnerability; Argelazi /Birman judged wisely to take the money, which turned out to be a significant number of euros, shekels, or dollars for the 1700-point penalty, and the Israeli camp exhaled: Israel won the Ortiz-Patiño trophy by 18 IMPs.

In the playoff for third place, China (Yichao Chen, Junjie Hu, Zisu Lin, Yinghao Liu, Yinpei Shao, Di Zhuo) swamped USA1 116-61 over 48 boards to earn the bronze medals.

Ortiz-Patiño Trophy

Bronze:

China:
Yinghao LIU
Yinpei SHAO
Yichao CHEN
DI ZHUO
Junjie HU
Zisu LIN, npc
Xueming FU



DAMIANI CUP WORLD YOUNGSTERS (U-21) TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

The Under-21 event drew an entry of 16 teams representing only five of the eight WBF zones (Africa, BFAME and CAC did not participate). Nine of the participating teams represented European countries, adding to the evidence that there is more

interest in bridge among younger people in Europe than in other parts of the world, and/or perhaps greater financial support. The first stage was a 15-match round robin of 10-board matches, played over four days, and the list of qualifiers for the quarterfinals cast the European teams in a most favorable light:

1 •	England	284
2 •	Sweden	260
3 •	Israel	259
4 •	France	239
5 •	Poland	238
6 •	China	235
7 •	Netherlands	233.5
8 •	Hungary	229.5

China was the only team to break the European monopoly. USA1 came heartbreakingly close, missing out by half a Victory Point.

These were the matchups for the 40-board quarterfinals

England	54	65	119
Hungary	34	28	62
Netherlands	37	74	111
Sweden	57	23	80
Israel	19	71	90
China	33	2	35
Poland	52	62	114
France	24	33	57

England had little difficulty getting past Hungary, and Israel held serve against China, but Sweden regretted having to face Netherlands, losing by 31 IMPs. Finishing fourth was no bonus for France, as that created a forced date with mighty Poland; the Polish team looked very strong in posting a 67-IMP win. These were the rosters of the quarterfinalists:

England: D McIntosh, Paske,Paul, Rainforth, Robertson, S Shah

Hungary: Wagner, Konkoly, B Fischer, K Lazar, Ormay, Szirmay-Kalos

Neth'lands: v Leeuwen, Lleufkens, V Nab, Philipsen, T Verbeek, Wackwitz

Sweden: I and M Gronkvist, M and O Rimstedt, Karlsson, D Gullberg

Israel: Damty, Gerstner, A Lazar, Meyuchas, Oadon, Tusher

China: J Mao, X Huang, Y Jiang, J Shen, K Lu, R Tang

Poland: P Jassem, Jochymiski, Kazmierczak, Mroczkowski, Smieszko, P Tuczyszynski

France: Charignon, Cotreau, Codert, du Corail, Lafont, Thizy

The 56-board semifinals pitted England vs Netherlands and Israel vs Poland

England	45.5	1	32	64	142.5
Netherlands	25	78	20	13	136



Damiani Cup Gold: Poland
top row: Andrzej BIERNACKI (coach); Wojciech KAZMIERCZAK; Piotr
TUCSZYŃSKI; Adam SMIESZKOŁ; Tomasz JOCHYŃSKI; Stanisław
Golbowski (VP PBU); Rudolf Borusiewicz (VP PBU); (with: José Damiani)

low row: Paweł JASSEM; Mateusz MROCZKOWSKI

It's not often you'll see a team lose a 14-board segment 78-1 in the late stages of a knockout, and less often that you'll see that team recover to win a 56-board match, but the score line of England vs Netherlands reveals the amazing tale of their encounter. England, still 45 IMPs behind with one quarter left, won that set by 51 to reach the final in truly remarkable fashion.

Israel	10	63	9	24	106
Poland	55	41	18	25	139

A big first quarter got Poland off to a 45-IMP lead, but Israel cut that in half by the midway mark in the match. The last two sets were close, so Poland held on to win by 33 to book a date with England the next day.

This was the score line in the 64-board final:

England	18	21	54	45	138
Poland	45	64	18	55	182

Poland (Paweł Jassem, Tomasz Maciej Jochyński, Wojciech Kazmierczak, Mateusz Mroczkowski, Adam Smieszkoł, Piotr Tuczyński, Włodzimierz Kryztofczyk, npc, Andrzej Biernacki, coach) started strong and kept the pressure on to build a



Damiani Cup Silver: England
Tom PASKE; Graeme ROBERTSON;
Michael BYRNE (npc);
Shivam SHAH; James PAUL;
Alan SHILLITOE (coach);
Daniel MCINTOSH;
Tom RAINFORTH



Damiani Cup Bronze
Netherlands:
Monique van de SAND, npc;
Maarten SCHOLLAARDT, coach;
Rens PHILIPSEN
This VERBEKE; Vincent NAB;
Lotte LEUFKENS;
Ernst WACKWITZ;
Rik van LEEUWEN
(with José Damiani)

handsome 70-IMP lead at the half. England (Daniel McIntosh, Thomas Paske, James Paul, Thomas Rainforth, Graeme Robertson, Shivam Shah, Michael Byrne, npc, Alan Shillitoe, coach) rallied in the third quarter to cut the margin to 34, but Poland slammed the door on the way out and won the Damiani Cup by 44 IMPs.

Netherlands (Rik van Leeuwen, Lotte Leufkens, Vincent Nab, Rens Philippsen, Thijs Verbeek, Ernst Wackwitz, Monique van de Sand, npc, Maarten Schollaardt, coach) defeated Israel 121-93 in the 48-board bronze-medal playoff.

RONA CUP WORLD YOUNG LADIES (U-26) TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

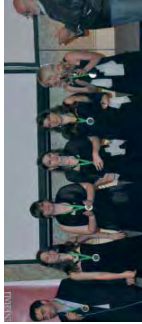


Rona Cup Gold: Poland
(with: José Damiani, Radosław Kielbasiński - Pres PZBS);
Danuta KAZMUCHA; Natalia SAKOWSKA; Justyna LMUDA; Ewa GRABOWSKA;
Magdalena HOLESKA; Joanna TACZEWSKA; Mirosław CICHOCKI (npc);
Rudolf BORUSIEWICZ, coach; (with Gianarigo Rona)

Four teams participated in this new event for women under 26, though it won't be long before some of them are winning medals in the open competition for their age group. The teams played a double round robin of 12-board matches, with the top two teams meeting in the 48-board final and the others playing off for the bronze medals. The round robin rankings:

1 • Poland	64
2 • France	50
3 • China	45
4 • USA	18

In the final, Poland (Ewa Agnieszka Grabowska, Magdalena Holeska, Danuta Kazmucha, Natalia Sakowska, Joanna Taczewska, Justyna Zmuda, Mirosław Cichocki, npc, Rudolf Borusiewicz, coach) won all three sets, and the first Rona Cup, 131-97. France (Marion Cannone, Jessie Carboneaux, Aurelie Thizy, Carole PUILLET, OClaire Chaugny, Jerome Rombaut, npc) lost the final but won the silver medals.



Rona Cup Silver: France
Jerome ROMBAUT, npc;
Jessie CARBONNEAUX;
Aurélië THIZY;
Claire CHAUGNY;
Carole PUILLET;
Marion CANNONE
(with Gianarigo Rona)



Rona Cup Bronze: China
Lulu PENG
Xiufen CHANG
Yanjiao LIU
Lixuan LI, npc
Xing LI
Wei MENG

Poland	41	31	59	131
France	21	28	48	97

China (Xiufen Chang, Xing Li, Yanjiao Liu, Wei Meng, Lulu Peng, Xingxing Shan, Li Xuan Li, npc, Hongli Lu, coach) won the third-place play-off, beating USA (Dana Berkowitz, Alevtina Asarina, Asya Ladyzhensky, Anam Tebha, Belinda Gu, Argenta Price, Jan Martel, npc, Lynn Deas, coach) 114-97.

China	34	47	33	114
USA	28	36	33	97

WORLD YOUTH INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIP

The final youth events in Philadelphia were two parallel individual championships for under-26 and under-21 players. There were two qualifying sessions, followed by three-session finals and a two-session Plate (Consolation) open to non-qualifiers from both main events. 44 players entered the Juniors tournament, 56 the Youngsters championship.

Leading qualifiers:

JUNIORS (U-26)	
1 • Raghavendra Rajkumar	57.05
2 • Raja Sekhar Guthi	56.70
3 • Yanjiao Liu	56.02
4 • Hiroki Yokoi	55.91
5 • Mohit Agarwal	55.80
6 • Belinda Gu	55.68
7 • Hiroaki Miura	55.45
8 • Michael Bell	55.23
9 • Prajwal Bachiraju	55.23
10 • Owen Lien	54.77

YOUNGSTERS (U-21)	
1 • Daniel Gullberg	65.14
2 • Yujie Jiang	62.34
3 • Chun-Yao Huang	62.05
4 • Shan Huang	60.42
5 • Maxim Henbest	60.00
6 • Danuta Kazmucha	58.75
7 • Kristoffer Hegge	57.55
8 • Mats Eide	57.36
9 • Kevin Rosenberg	56.00
10 • Manlin Luo	55.85

Twenty-four players in each flight qualified for their final. With one session to play, the leading score in both events was a solid 57%, with many pairs in touch with the leaders.

In the Juniors, though the overall leader, Haakon Bogen of Norway had another big game, he was passed by Denmark's Dennis Bilde, who produced a monster final session to climb to the top from third. Chun Ting Arthur Lau of Hong Kong moved up from fifth to earn the bronze medal. The top ten:



JUNIORS (U-26)	
1 • Dennis Bilde	58.12
2 • Haakon Bogen	57.54
3 • Chun Ting Arthur Lau	55.07
4 • Prajwal Bachiraju	55.07
5 • Raghavendra Rajkumar	53.62
6 • Matthew Meckstroth	52.90
7 • Adam Kaplan	52.03
8 • Hiroki Yokoi	51.45
9 • Eric Arvidsson	50.87
10 • Yin Wai Leung	50.43



Junior Individual
Gold: Dennis BILDE
Silver: Haakon BOGEN
Bronze:
Chun Ting Arthur LAU

In the Youngsters heat, the leader after two sessions, Italy's Massimiliano Di Franco, fell on hard times in the final session, and slipped out of the medal placings. USA's Adam Grossack, and second after two sessions, produced a third solid game and earned the title with room to spare. Kristoffer Hegge of Norway moved up to second from fifth, and Daniel Gullberg of Sweden improved from ninth to finish third. The top ten:

YOUNGSTERS (U-21)	
1 • Adam Grossack	55.59
2 • Kristoffer Hegge	53.80
3 • Daniel Gullberg	53.39
4 • Richard Jeng	53.33
5 • Massimiliano Di Franco	53.30
6 • Yujie Jiang	53.28
7 • Po-Hsiang Hao	52.03
8 • Krisztina Ormay	52.04
9 • Barnabas Szirmay-Kalos	51.68
10 • Chun-Yao Huang	51.51



Youngsters Individual
Medalists:
Silver:
Kristoffer HEGGE;
Gold:
Adam GROSSACK;
Bronze:
Daniel GULLBERG

Seventeen players participated in the two-session Plate (Consolation). The top five were:

PLATE (Consolation)	
1 • Andrew Jeng	USA
2 • Yasuaki Ii	Japan
3 • Mikael Rimsstedt	Sweden
4 • Vemund Vikjord	Norway
5 • Johan Karlsson	Sweden

WORLD COMPUTER BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP

The 14th championship in the series attracted seven hopeful contestants and their robots. They competed in a first-stage round robin of 32-board matches. Followed by knockout semi-finals and final. The favorites were defending champion, Jack, developed by Hans Kuifj of the Netherlands, and the 2008 winner Wbridge5, developed by Yves Costel of France.

CONTESTANTS AND WEBSITES

- **Bridge Baron** (USA)
Stephen Smith
www.bridgebaron.com
- **Jack** (The Netherlands)
Hans Kuifj
www.jackbridge.com
- **Micro Bridge** (Japan)
T Uchida and Y Uchida
www.osk3web.ne.jp/~mcbridge/
- **Moose Bridge** (USA)
Pete Botton
mcbridge@tky3web.ne.jp
- **Q-Plus Bridge** (Germany)
Hans Leber
www.q-plus.com
- **Shark Bridge** (Denmark)
John Norris
www.sharkbridge.dk
- **Wbridge5** (France)
Yves Costel
john.staal.norris@hotmail.com
www.wbridge5.com
yvescostel@numercable.com

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

West		North		East		South	
Shark	Q-Plus	Q-Plus	Shark	Q-Plus	Shark	Q-Plus	Shark
1♥	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
2NT	Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass	Pass	Pass
				3♥	All Pass		

part of the 40th World Team Championships.

SEMIFINALS

Wbridge5 154 **Bridge Baron** 123
Jack 183 **Shark Bridge** 58
Jack defeated Shark Bridge convincingly, but Bridge Baron 123 gave Wbridge5 a tough battle.

FINAL

Jack 150 **Wbridge5** 118
The final pitted the two most competitive programs on the market against one another, with Jack retaining its title after a hard-fought match.



Martin PATTENIER, Wim HEEMSKERK, Al LEVY,
Hans KUIFJ (developer of Jack, the winning program in the World Computer Bridge Championship), José Damiani

World Bridge News drew extensively on material and photographs that appeared in the Daily Bulletins in Philadelphia and the gracious assistance of journalists, officials and players. A special vote of thanks goes to Jonathan Steinberg (Toronto), who made available his extensive collection of photos.

*Publishing Director: Gianarigo Rona
Executive Editor: Eric Kokish
Contributors: Donna Compton, Anna Gudge,
Mark Newton, Anna Maria Torioltano
Realization: Kalevala • Paris*

2nd World Youth Bridge Championships

Opatija, Croatia / 21-30 August 2011

THE VENUE

Grand Hotel 4 Opatjska Cvijeta and Mileny Hotel

PARTICIPATION

Juniors (up to 25) and Youngsters (up to 20) may participate

ACCOMMODATION

(full board / per person per day):

Single Room	€ 93,00
Double Room	€ 61,00
Triple Room	€ 51,00
Quadruple Room	€ 46,00

The above-mentioned accommodation rates at the Grand Hotel 4 Opatjska Cvijeta, are valid for the participants and their companions also up to one week after the event. Participants are kindly requested to send their accommodation requests to:

Mrs Branka Grguric: branka_grguric@net.hr

CHAMPIONSHIPS SCHEDULE

21 August	7.30pm: Opening Ceremony
22-23 August	Swiss Teams
24 August	Swiss Teams Quarter-final and BAM Teams Qualification-1
25 August	Swiss Teams Semi-final and BAM Teams Qualification-2
26 August	Swiss Teams Final and BAM Teams Qualification-3
27 August	BAM Teams A&B Final

28-30 August
30 August
Open Pairs
Prize-giving & Closing Ceremony



The 2011 Calendar

2010	DATE	EVENT	CONTACT
May	10/19 21/28 24/28	Zone 2 USBF Open team Trials, Las Vegas Nevada, USA Zone 2 (CBF) Championships, Regina, SK, Canada Zone 5 (Central America & Caribbean) Championships, Varadero, Cuba Zone 4 (Asia and Middle) Championships, Chennai, India	www.usbf.org jan@cbf.ca www.cacbf.com not yet confirm
June	1/11 3/4 6/11 15/24 17/23 17/2	Zone 3 (South America) Championships, Asuncion, Paraguay World Wide Bridge Contest, Clubs everywhere Zone 2 USBF Women's & Seniors Trials, Detroit Michigan, USA Zone 6 (Pacific Asia) Championships, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia Zone 8 (Africa) Championships, Hammamet, Tunisia European Open Championships, Poznan, Poland	www.confusudbridge.org www.ecatsbridge.com www.usbf.org www.mcba.org.my www.africanbridgefed.net www.eurobridge.org
July	21/31	ACBL Summer NABC, Toronto Ontario, Canada	www.acbl.org
August	21/30	2 nd World Youth Bridge Congress, Opatija, Croatia	www.worldbridge.org
October	15/29	40 th World Team Championships, Veldhoven, Netherlands	www.worldbridge.org



2010 Challenge Match

The 2010 Buffett Cup Challenge Match, staged at Miskin Manor Country Hotel, Cardiff, Wales, in September, featured the two strongest teams to date, creating great anticipation for the spectators around the world.

Team USA won the inaugural event in Dublin in 2006 and Team Europe won in Louisville in 2008, so the NPC's felt the pressure to bring in the best of the best for the third Challenge Cup.

TEAM USA'S ROSTER

David Berkowitz, Alan Sontag, Bob Hamman, Zia Mahmood, Bobby Levin, Steve Weinstein, Jill Levin, Jill Meyers, Jeff Meckstroth, Eric Rodwell, Geoff Hampson and Fred Gitelman, NPC Donna Compton.

TEAM EUROPE'S ROSTER

Sabine Auken, Daniela Von Arnim, Boye Brogeland, Erik Saelensminde, Giorgio Duboin, Antonio Sementa, Fulvio Fantoni, Claudio Nunes, Jason and Justin Hackett, Geir Helgemo and Tor Helness, NPC Paul Hackett.



Gianrigo Rona with Team USA: Hamman, Rodwell, Hampson, Sontag, Jill Levin, Bobby Levin, Compton, Meckstroth, Meyers, Mahmood, Gitelman, Berkowitz, Weinstein

Team Europe: Fantoni, Auken, Nunes, Duboin, Jason Hackett, Paul Hackett, von Arnim, Helgemo, Justin Hackett, Sementa, Brogeland, Saelensminde, Helness

There were 198 Buffett Points available over the three events – Pairs, Teams and Individual. The first team to obtain 100 Buffett Points would win. The Pairs Event was first up: each of the six pairs on Team USA was linked to a particular pair on Team Europe; each played a short match against each of the "other" five pairs of the opposing team (but not against their directly-linked pair, which always sits in the corresponding seats at the matching table. There were 60 Buffett Points offered for the Pairs phase. When the final scores were posted, USA had 40 Buffett Points to Team Europe's 20.

The Teams Event was second in line: each team arranged its six pairs into three teams that met each of the three opposing teams for two sets. The Team Events, with 72 BP at stake, provided an opportunity for Team Europe to get back into the match. At the end of the Teams phase, Team Europe had narrowed the lead, trailing Team USA by 12 BP, 60-72. The Challenge Match would be decided by the Individual Event.

The Individual Event offered 66 BP. Each player on Team USA was drawn to compare with a particular player on Team Europe. A player did not meet his directly-linked opponent, who was always in the same seat at the corresponding table. Each player partnered the eleven other members of the team for one short set, meeting various combinations of the opposing team. In every case the four individuals at one table had their corresponding opponent sitting in the same seat at the matching table.

Each individual match awarded six BP. At the end of five individual matches, Team USA led 89-73. Focused on the goal of 100 Buffett Points – needing only 11 more points, Team USA won each of the next three matches 4-2 and locked up the 2010 Buffett Cup Challenge Match with three matches to go. In the spirit of the event and for all of the spectators around the world, Team USA and Team Europe finished the remaining three matches; the final score was Team USA 109 – Team Europe 89. The top individual point winners for their respective teams were Bob Hamman and Claudio Nunes.



The WBF Women's Committee

The WBF Women's Committee, as always, has been very active, looking at new ways to involve women in bridge and to develop women's bridge worldwide.

There are currently WBF women's tournaments played each Wednesday online at BBO (www.bridgebase.com) – individual and pair events, joined by women from all around the world.

In April we will once again be staging the Online Women's Bridge Festival in partnership with BBO; this has proved extremely successful in the past two years and we hope that all NBO's will provide information about this to their women players, giving them the address of our website at www.wbfwomenbridgeclub.org, where they can find full details of this enjoyable event. It gives women the chance to play online in a friendly and sociable environment.

Although we have publicized the event extensively, it is unfortunate that this edition of World Bridge News will come out too late to provide last-minute details about the "First Zonal Women's

Festival," staged for women players from all over the world in Thailand (Zone 6). This event is being organized by the Contract Bridge League of Thailand, and Esther Sophonpanich, President of Zone 6 and Chair of the Organizing Committee, with the generous assistance and support of the Pacific Asia Bridge Federation and the WBF Women's Committee. Every indication suggests that this is going to be a very successful and enjoyable event, comprising a Bridge Festival combined with some wonderful tourism.

However, for those who missed the Thailand Festival, please be advised that we are planning more events for the future, including Zonal Women's Festivals in Zones 4 and 8 and in Buenos Aires in Zone 5. These events and others will be advertised on our website as well as directly to the NBOs in due course. Please contact our Secretary, Anna Gudge, if you wish to be added to our mailing list to receive information directly about WBF Women's events – you can e-mail her at: anna@ecats.co.uk. José Damiani retired from the Presidency of the WBF in October, 2010, and I would

like to pay tribute to him for his remarkable efforts for the game and its players everywhere, and especially for his strong, constant support and commitment to Women's Bridge. At the same time, I welcome the election of Gianrigo Rona to the Presidency and I know that he, too, shares our aims and ambitions for the development of women's bridge worldwide. Space constraints prevent me from mentioning all the dedicated members of the Women's Committee, but I must acknowledge the immense support of my Vice Chairman, Joan Gerard and the wonderful work done on our website by Marijke Blanken.

You can find our website at www.wbf-womensbridgeclub.org, and there is also lots of information about Women's Bridge on the WBF Website at www.worldbridge.org – go to the category section and click on "women" and you will find it there; information about future events will also be published on www.ecatsbridge.com.

WorldWide Bridge Contest

BY ANNA GUDGE & MARK NEWTON - EcatsBridge (www.ecatsbridge.com)

The 2010 World Wide Bridge Contest was held at the beginning of June with over 9,500 pairs competing in the two sessions from some 49 different countries world wide.

On Friday the winners came from Italy – Fabrizio Morelli / Elvio Bastardini, with an amazing 78.42%. Second overall were Susanne and Henning Bohnsack

from Germany with 75.64%. Vital St-Gelais / Hugue Dufour from Canada were third with 72.70%. All three of those scores were very high.

The winners on Saturday were John Currie / Virginia Giza from Canada with 74.64%; second were Baneet Malhotra / Bhabesh Saha from India with 72.41%; and third were Bernard Donde / Robert Stephens from South Africa with 71.64%

The 2011 Worldwide Bridge Contest will be on Friday June 3rd and Saturday June 4th.

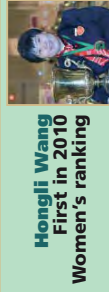
To enter, please contact
Anna Gudge:

tel. +44 1787 881920
fax +44 870 123 1955
email anna@ecats.co.uk



RANKING

WBF Women's Top 50, 2010



Hongli Wang
First in 2010
Women's ranking

Name	Rank	WGM	CAT	M.P.
1 Wang Hongli	1	CHN	WGM	3008
2 Gu Gu	2	CHN	WGM	2916
3 Letitia Lina	3	CHN	WGM	2876
4 Letitia Lina	4	CHN	WGM	2718
5 Catherine Wen Fei	5	FRA	WGM	2644
6 Wang Wen Fei	6	CHN	WGM	2610
7 Sabine Sabine	7	GER	WGM	2524
8 Vriend Vriend	8	NED	WGM	2509
9 Willard Willard	9	FRA	WGM	2500
10 Cronier Cronier	10	FRA	WGM	2341
11 Meyers Meyers	11	USA	WGM	2095

WBF Grand Masters 2010 Women's Category *

Name	Rank	NBO	WGM	P.P.
1 Meyers Sabine	1	GER	39.5	
2 Aulen Lynne	2	USA	39	
3 Deas Sanborn	3	USA	37.5	
4 Letitia Inna	4	CHN	36	
5 Gu Hongli	5	CHN	35	
6 Anlin Daniela Von	6	GER	34.5	
7 Catherine Catherine	7	FRA	33.5	
8 D'Ovidio Wen Fei	8	CHN	33	
9 Kennedy Betty Ann	9	USA	30.5	
10 Vriend Bep	10	NED	32.5	
11 Sokolow Tobl	11	USA	32	
12 Sun Ming	12	FRA	31.5	
13 Willard Sylvie	13	USA	30	
14 Palmer Karen	14	USA	29	
15 McCallum Karen	15	USA	28	
16 Rabin Judi	16	USA	28.5	
17 Quinn Shawn	17	USA	27.5	
18 Nemert Beate Pony	18	GER	27.5	

WBF Open Top 50, 2010



Fulvio Fantoni
First in 2010
Men's ranking

Name	Rank	NBO	CAT	M.P.
1 Fantoni Fulvio	1	ITA	WGM	4754
2 Nunes Claudio	2	ITA	WGM	4533
3 Dubois Giorgio	3	ITA	WGM	3827
4 Hamman Bob	4	USA	WGM	3745
5 Meckstroth Jeff	5	USA	WGM	3734
6 Loria Enzo	6	ITA	WGM	3644
7 Loria Enzo	7	ITA	WGM	3568
8 Rodwell Eric	8	USA	WGM	3508
9 Nicell Frank (Nick)	9	USA	WGM	2943
10 Mahmood Zia	10	USA	WGM	2938
11 Helgemo Geir	11	NOR	WGM	2711

WBF Grand Masters 2010 Open Category *

Name	Rank	NBO	P.P.
1 Hamman Bob	1	USA	108.25
2 Gazzo Benito	2	ITA	71.5
3 Meckstroth Jeff	3	USA	60.25
4 Forquet Eric	4	USA	59.75
5 Loria Enzo	5	ITA	58
6 Vesce Alfredo	6	ITA	48.5
7 Chagas Gabriel	7	BRA	41
8 Standby Lew	8	USA	40.5
9 Marrel Chip	9	USA	40
10 Marrel Chip	10	USA	37.25
11 Fantoni Fulvio	11	BRA	37
12 Branco Marcelo	12	BRA	35
13 Nunes Claudio	13	ITA	32
14 Helms Tor	14	NOR	32
15 Bocchi Norberto	15	ITA	31
16 Helgemo Geir	16	NOR	30.5
17 Rabin Michael	17	USA	28.5
18 Eismberg Billy	18	USA	25.5

* ranked by Rating Points

40th World Team Championships

VELDHOVEN, The Netherlands
15-29 October 2011



OPENING CEREMONY

The Opening Ceremony will be held on **Saturday October 15th** at the **NH Conference Center Koningshof**. The ceremony will be followed by a show and by a cocktail/buffet.

THE BERMUDA BOWL, VENICE CUP & D'ORSI SENIORS BOWL

The Round Robin for all three Championships will start **Sunday 16th October** and finish on **Saturday 22nd October**, with the final knock-out stages starting on **Sunday 23rd**. The Quarter Transnational Open Teams, thus enabling players eliminated from the main Championships to participate Transnational Championship.

Zonal Qualified teams for Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup & D'Orsi Seniors Bowl (in addition to the Host Teams):

- Zone 1 – 6 teams
- Zone 2 – 3 teams
- Zone 3 – 2 teams
- Zone 4 – 2 teams
- Zone 5 – 1 teams
- Zone 6 – 3 teams
- Zone 7 – 2 teams
- Zone 8 – 2 teams

If any Zone does not fill its quota the first berth will be offered to Zone 1, the second one to Zone 6.

THE WORLD TRANSNATIONAL OPEN TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

The 8th World Transnational Open Teams will take place during the second week, starting in the late afternoon on **Monday 24th October**. The format will be Swiss Teams. It is normally played as 10-board matches (3, 4 or 5 per day) for 15 qualify-



ing rounds (150 boards). The Quarter Final will start on **Thursday 27th October** late afternoon, the Semi Final will be played on **Friday 28th October** and the Final will end on **Saturday 29th October**.

The **World Transnational Open Teams Championship** 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 v-graph presentation. Players wishing to compete in this Championship should contact their NBO and request nomination by the end of September 2011. 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 and Quarter-final of the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup & D'Orsi Seniors Bowl will be able to enter the **World Transnational Open Teams Championship** free of charge if they enter as a complete team.

REGISTRATION OF TEAMS

All entries to the Championships must be submitted electronically, via the WBF website (not by email) at www.worldbridge.org/competitions/11Veldhoven/Information.htm

by **15th June 2011**. It is very important that this deadline is respected.

REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS' NAMES

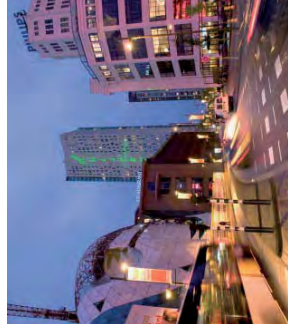
Registration of players' and NBO Delegation members' names must be sent by **15th July 2011** via the WBF website (not by email) at www.worldbridge.org/competitions/11Veldhoven/Information.htm

PAYMENT OF ENTRY FEES

- Bermuda Bowl/Venice Cup € 3,200 before or on 1st July
- D'Orsi Seniors Bowl € 3,200 before or on 1st July
- World Transnational Open Teams € 1,200 before or on 1st Sept.

The entry fees must be paid by **Bank Transfer to WBF**
Bank information will be forwarded to NBOs and published on the WBF and E-Cats Web

Players eliminated from the Open, Women's or Senior Teams may form new Open teams and will receive free entry provided no players who have not participated in these events are added.



In the event that a team is made up from players who have not participated in the three main events, with players from these events added to the team, the charges will be as follows

- A team with **4 new players** & one or two eliminated players: € 1.200
- A team with **3 new players** & up to three eliminated players : € 960
- A team with **2 new players** & up to four eliminated players : € 640
- A team with **1 new player** & up to five eliminated players : € 320

SYSTEMS REGISTRATION

Systems in Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup & D'Orsi Senior Bowl have to be registered with the World Bridge Federation Systems Administrator by **31st July 2011** at

anna@ecats.co.uk

The conditions of contest will give full details of systems regulations and registration. 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 or HUM systems for use in the KO phase must register these, together with the relevant BS forms, by **31st July 2011**. No extension to this deadline will be accepted. BS or HUM partnerships will lose their seating rights.

THE VENUE

NH CONFERENCE CENTER KONINGSHOF in Veldhoven is situated in an area of natural beauty, five kilometers south of Eindhoven and near Eindhoven Airport. The biggest Congress Hotel of the Benelux is situated in the beautiful surroundings of the "Brabantse Kempen" which creates a different atmosphere every season. Upon arrival you can immediately encounter the famous Brabant hospitality. NH Conference Center Koningshof offers 509 rooms, all situated in a quiet environment and overlook the forest or the patio gardens of the hotel. The Koningshof has a swimming pool, sports hall, squash courts, solarium and saunas, fitness room, restaurants and bars, and outdoor all-weather tennis and beach volleyball court. The Genderstein golf club is just a five-minute walk away. The busses – which stop in front of the hotel – can bring you to Eindhoven city center.

EINDHOVEN. As the largest city in the south of the Netherlands, the Eindhoven region has over 725.000 inhabitants. The Dutch capital Amsterdam is only 125 km away. Eindhoven offers a wide spectrum of facilities in the areas of shopping, nightlife and performing arts. The cultural climate in the Eindhoven region is diverse - the Van Abbe museum is internationally recognised for its modern art collection. Eindhoven is sometimes called the 'City of Light', that's not surprising because Eindhoven is closely linked to Philips. Eindhoven ranks among the world's top cities in first-rate technology, design, lighting and sports. A number of international top companies work together at the state-of-the-art High Tech Campus, our very own Silicon Valley. Design from Eindhoven

has also achieved world fame. Students from all corners of the globe come to study at the Design Academy and at the Industrial Design department of the University of Technology. Eindhoven is dedicated to excellence.

BRAINPORT EINDHOVEN. Top technology region Brainport Eindhoven is a breeding ground for innovation and the home base for companies, and world-class knowledge and research institutes. Brainport devises and manufactures the technology of the near future, the technology that contributes to a safe, green, and caring society and to the sustainable economic development of the Netherlands. Among the numerous innovative and renowned knowledge and research institutes are: Philips, DAF, ASML, FEI Company, TomTom, University of Technology, TNO, Design Academy, High Tech Campus.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION & BOOKING

The Organising Committee has arranged the following special rates (for participants with the Hotel (including breakfast and free parking and excluding Tourist Tax € 0.60 per person per night):

- Standard Double Room € 109
- Standard Single Room € 95
- Superior Double Room* € 129
- Superior Single Room* € 115

(*According to availability)

For booking please contact:

NH Conference Centre Koningshof
Mrs. Paula Duim
Tel. 00-31-(0)40-2581825
p.duim@nh-hotels.com

For further information about other hotel accommodation please contact:

Mr. Just van Der Kam
Organising Committee
NBB@bridge.nl

TRAVEL

You are advised to book a direct flight from the major European cities to International Airport Eindhoven. When you travel from outside Europe to the Netherlands it is likely you will arrive at

Amsterdam Airport Schiphol. Schiphol station is situated directly below the airport. It takes 1 hour and 32 min. from Schiphol to Eindhoven by train.

The organisers will be happy to arrange your transfer from Eindhoven station or Eindhoven Airport to NH Conference Centre Koningshof.

