



## DAILY BULLETIN

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Bulletin 1

Saturday, 16 March 2002

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# Welcome to the Ultimate Mixed Event

Oostende - Stad aan Zee - City on the Sea



Four hundred and five pairs are contesting the 7th European Bridge Mixed Championships which are being held in Ostend for the first time since 1992. That is less than the 456 pairs who competed in Bellaria in 2000, but then there were 171 Italian pairs against the 75 competing here. The six previous Championships have seen pairs from six different countries atop the rostrum – France, Poland, Germany, Austria, Sweden and Italy. Our hosts have 37 pairs in the lists – perhaps they will provide number seven?

### PLAYING SCHEDULE

The evening session today starts at 20.15 hrs. and will end at approximately midnight.

**Tomorrow, Sunday, March 17**

**10.30 3rd Qualification session**

**16.30 1st Final & Consolation session**

### Mixed Pairs

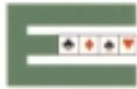
Three qualifying sessions will be played, after which the first 130 pairs proceed to the Finals, to be played over three sessions as well. The remaining pairs will play a three-session Consolation.

There will be a carryover from the qualifications, the final result of it counting as one session. (The formula given on page 23 of the conditions of contest is not correct: the figure "2" should be read as "3." This applies for both the Finals and the Consolation).

## 8th Malta Bridge Festival

11th-18th April 2002

and in co-operation with the  
European Bridge League



Incorporating the  
2nd Mediterranean  
European Seniors Congress

(Seniors events 11th - 14th April)



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## Don't Miss Malta!

The 8th Malta Bridge Festival incorporating the 2nd Mediterranean European Seniors Congress promises to be an exceptional event. Festival Organisers Mario Dix and Margaret Parnis England are playing here in Ostend so don't miss the chance to talk to them.

## Smile Please!



When our photographer Ron Tacchi appears at your table make sure you display a winning smile!

## Bidding Challenge

You will face many bidding problems during the course of the Championships. We doubt any will prove to be as difficult as this one that you may care to try with your partner. Their hand appears on page 4.

You have the North cards and deal at Game All.

### North

♠ A K Q J  
♥ K Q 5 3  
♦ A 7 5 2  
♣ K

## Houston Vanderbilt

The final of the main event at the latest ACBL Nationals pitted the perennial favourites, **Nick Nickell's** squad of **Richard Freeman, Bob Hamman, Paul Soloway, Jeff Meckstroth & Eric Rodwell** against the team led by **Reese Milner**, comprising **Marc Jacobus, John Mohan, Sam Lev, Piotr Gawrys & Jacek Pszczola**.

It was the squad with the Poles that prevailed, as they led by 73 IMPs at the three quarter mark and went on to complete an easy victory.

## Bridge Magazine IMP presents Herman's Bridge Team Ratings

After the IOC trophy in Salt Lake City, the first new ratings for 2002 have become available. Ladies first:

The first number is the rating, in VP, the second is the number of (16-board) matches that are taken into account for the rating.

1 France	21,36	108	37 Chile	12,30	11
2 Germany	20,62	110	38 Monaco	12,05	8
3 United States	20,45	114	39 Northern Ireland	12,00	17
4 Austria	19,39	102	40 Portugal	12,00	5
5 Netherlands	19,38	102	41 San Marino	11,97	21
6 England	18,95	81	42 Wales	11,87	51
7 China	18,70	100	43 India	11,78	71
8 Canada	18,23	69	44 Morocco	11,73	15
9 Israel	17,35	68	45 Colombia	11,55	30
10 Poland	17,16	53	46 Singapore	11,28	17
11 Italy	17,12	69	47 China Hong Kong	11,21	52
12 Norway	16,75	66	48 Peru	10,64	8
13 Denmark	16,49	79	49 Venezuela	10,55	44
14 Czech Rep.	16,29	48	50 Bolivia	10,52	11
15 Sweden	16,12	67	51 Ireland	10,40	39
16 Belgium	15,11	21	52 Uruguay	10,00	8
17 Australia	15,10	74	53 Thailand	9,94	27
18 Finland	15,09	63	54 Bermuda	9,75	8
19 South Africa	15,08	71	55 Pakistan	9,43	40
20 Spain	14,84	51	56 Tunisia	9,17	13
21 Switzerland	14,67	5	57 Trinidad and Tobago	9,08	4
22 Chinese Taipei	14,59	58	58 Malaysia	8,80	3
23 Brazil	14,25	56	59 Zimbabwe	8,38	2
24 Argentina	14,22	41	60 Jordan	8,26	23
25 Russia	13,95	51	61 Sri Lanka	8,23	27
26 Mexico	13,95	20	62 Reunion	8,20	18
27 Egypt	13,85	44	63 Bahrain	7,71	13
28 Japan	13,81	72	64 Faroe Islands	7,60	10
29 Indonesia	13,60	56	65 Philippines	6,90	20
30 Hungary	13,20	39	66 Paraguay	6,64	8
31 New Zealand	13,17	59	67 South Korea	6,20	26
32 Greece	13,01	51	68 Barbados	6,07	6
33 Croatia	12,87	51	69 Jamaica	5,88	26
34 Scotland	12,76	53	70 Guadeloupe	4,06	9
35 Turkey	12,72	33	71 Mauritius	2,63	2
36 Iceland	12,37	31	72 Martinique	-1,04	3

### Smoking can Seriously Damage Your Wealth



If you are caught smoking in the playing area or toilets you will be fined 25% of the matchpoints available on a board during the session plus a fine of € 60. Constant infractions will result in disqualification. Failure to pay the fine will result in further sanctions.

### Don't Phone a Friend



If you are caught with a mobile phone or technological instrument in the playing area or toilets you will be fined 100% of the matchpoints available on a board during the session plus a fine of € 100. This penalty is mandatory. Failure to pay the fine will result in further sanctions.

### Don't Drink and Deal



If you are caught drinking alcohol in the playing area or toilets you will be fined 25% of the matchpoints available on a board during the session plus a fine of € 60. Constant infractions will result in disqualification. Failure to pay the fine will result in further sanctions.

### Restaurant

You will find a Restaurant, Cafeteria and bar on the first floor, just above the playing room. Meals, sandwiches and drinks are available and we are assured the service is fast!



During the afternoon sessions for those not watching their waist lines, pastries will be available.

# The Hamman Syndrome

Do you recall Bob Hamman's remark that 'the best play badly and the rest are awful?' Take a look at these three deals from the Vanderbilt Teams at the North American Championships currently being played in Houston, Texas.

If East has to rebid 3NT then this deal is no recommendation for the forcing notrump. East must have been worried that a bid of Three Clubs would have been passed, but with Six laydown and Seven playable this was a poor effort.

Dealer South. East\West Vul

	♠ A K 10 6 4											
	♥ K 6 5 2											
	♦ 8 4											
	♣ 10 8											
♠ J 5 3	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"><tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr></table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 9 8 7	
	N											
W		E										
	S											
♥ Q J 4		♥ A 10 9 7										
♦ A 2		♦ J 9 6 5										
♣ A 9 7 4 3		♣ K 5										
	♠ Q 2											
	♥ 8 3											
	♦ K Q 10 7 3											
	♣ Q J 6 2											

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Landen</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Pratap</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>
Pass	2♠	All Pass	INT*

Dealer North. North\South

	♠ 10 6 3											
	♥ A 10 8 2											
	♦ A Q 3											
	♣ 6 5 3											
♠ K	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"><tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr></table>		N		W		E		S		♠ J 9 5 2	
	N											
W		E										
	S											
♥ J 9 7 5		♥ Q 6 4 3										
♦ 10 9 2		♦ J 8 5										
♣ Q J 9 8 7		♣ K 4										
	♠ A Q 8 7 4											
	♥ K											
	♦ K 7 6 4											
	♣ A 10 2											

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Landen</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Pratap</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♥*	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

East led a diamond and West took the king with the ace. It looks obvious to switch to a trump but West played the queen of hearts, followed by the jack, the ace of clubs and a third heart. Declarer ruffed in dummy, cashed the queen of diamonds and played a diamond, ruffing as West discarding a club. After ruffing his last heart with the queen of spades declarer ruffed a diamond, cashed a top spade and exited with a club forcing a lead into the spade tenace for +110.

Rodwell knew his partner's shape but elected to play in notrumps. West led the queen of clubs and declarer won, crossed to dummy with the ace of diamonds and played the ten of spades, covered in turn by the jack, queen and king. West switched to the jack of hearts and declarer won in hand crossed to the queen of diamonds and played a spade to the eight. When West discarded declarer had only one chance, to exit with a low diamond, hoping East would have to win with the jack and be endplayed. No luck and the club return put the contract two down.

If declarer had run the six of spades he would have made eleven tricks. Three deals to illustrate that Hamman's Syndrome is alive and well.

Dealer West. All Vul

	♠ Q 8 5 2											
	♥ Q 8 7 5											
	♦ K 6 4											
	♣ 4 3											
♠ K 10	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"><tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr></table>		N		W		E		S		♠ A J 9 7 6	
	N											
W		E										
	S											
♥ A 9 3		♥ K J 6										
♦ 10 5 3 2		♦ A										
♣ K J 10 8		♣ A Q 9 7										
	♠ 4 3											
	♥ 10 4 2											
	♦ Q J 9 8 7											
	♣ 6 5 2											

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Landen</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Pratap</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
INT*	Pass	3NT	All Pass

## Bidding Challenge

The South hand for the bidding problem:

**South**

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