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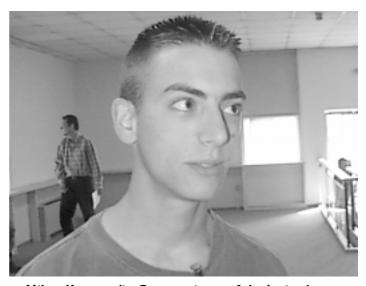
On top of the World



Antonio Semanta, Italy, winner of the Mens' event



Benedicte Cronier, France, winner of the Womens' event



Miltos Karamanlis, Greece, winner of the Juniors' event

MEN

Antonio Sementa is the pride of Italy after winning the Men's Generali World Masters. He gradually pulled away during the final session, to become the first Italian to capture the title.

WOMEN

Congratulations to France's **Benedicte Cronier**, the winner of the Women's Generali World Masters. She put her victory down to the fact that she played at a steady tempo, thereby putting all her partners at ease, enabling them to play their best.

JUNIORS

They will be dancing in the streets of Athens, as Greek fans celebrate the triumph of **Miltos Karamanlis** in the first Junior edition of the Generali World Masters. He was never headed during today's final session.

Final Womens' Results			
I CRONIER	FRA	55.25	
2 MEYERS	USA	54.53	
3 VERBEEK	NTH	54.12	
4 DELOR	FRA	52.37	
5 HARASIMOWICZ	POL	52.06	
6 MCGOWAN	GBR	51.85	
7 SIMONS	NTH	51.54	
8 BILDE	DEN	51.23	
9 VLAHAKI	GRE	51.21	
I0 SMITH	GBR	51.13	
II MONTIN	USA	51.03	
I2 SUN	CHN	50.93	
13 LEVIT-PORAT	ISR	50.82	
I4 LISE	FRA	50.51	
I5 AUKEN	GER	50.41	
I6 GAVIARD	FRA	50.31	
17 BESSIS	FRA	49.28	
18 ERHART	AUT	48.97	
19 STEEN MOLLER	DEN	48.87	
20 VRIEND	NTH	48.77	
21 VON ARNIM	GER	48.25	
22 DHONDY	GBR	48.15	
23 ZUR-CAMPANIL	ISR	48.13	
24 GORDON	CAN	47.84	
25 D'OVIDIO	FRA	47.53	
26 VAN DER PAS	NTH	46.30	
27 LANDY	GBR	45.88	
28 SHUGART	USA	42.49	

Final Juniors'	Results	
I KARAMANLIS	GRE	56.09
2 GLOYER	AUT	53.95
3 KIT LAI	HKG	53.62
3 ROBB	AUS	53.62
5 CHEN	CHN	52.80
6 LUTOSTANSKI	POL	52.63
7 HELLER	CAN	52.30
8 BIONDO	ITA	51.81
9 OCHOA	COL	51.09
10 KRASNOSSELSK	RUS	49.38
I I MIGNOCCHI	USA	48.85
12 KITCES	USA	4 8.72
13 WINKLER	HUN	48.52
14 CHARLSEN	NOR	48.36
15 RAVENNA	ARG	48.03
16 WOOLBRIDGE	USA	47.89
17 CASTILLO	COL	47.20
18 KHAN	PAK	46.38
19 CEGLIA	BRA	44.90
20 SAMIR	EGY	43.09

Final Mens'	Results	
I SEMENTA	ITA	57.15
2 GAWRYS	POL	55.51
3 GROMOV	RUS	54.45
4 ABECASSIS	FRA	54.21
5 MAHMOOD	USA	54.13
6 ROMANSKI	POL	53.88
7 LINDKVIST	SWE	53.59
8 HELNESS	NOR	53.55
9 HELGEMO	NOR	53.19
I0 WESTRA	NTH	52.12
II MARTENS	POL	51.92
12 KOWALSKI	POL	51.88
13 FREDIN	SWE	51.82
14 BALDURSSON	ICE	51.80
I5 BIANCHEDI	ARG	51.31
16 DE FALCO	ITA	51.21
17 ZOTOS	GRE	51.14
I8 YANG	CHN	50.98
19 BROGELAND	NOR	50.90
20 MULTON	FRA	50.82
20 MOUIEL	FRA	50.82
22 DUBOIN	ITA	50.78
23 ROBSON	GBR	50.68
23 VERSACE	ITA	50.68
25 FREEMAN	USA	50.53
26 HACKETT Justin	GBR	50.23
27 HAMAOUI	VEN	50.20
28 AUKEN	DEN	50.12
29 GITELMAN	CAN	50.00
30 HACKETT Jason	GBR	49.90
31 LEVY	FRA	49.88
31 BOMPIS	FRA	49.88
33 KOKISH	CAN	49.86
34 DE BOER	NTH	49.49
35 QUANTIN	FRA	49.47
36 KAPAYIANIDIS	GRE	49.43
37 BOCCHI	ITA	48.84
38 EIDI	LEB	48.59
39 PANELEWEN	IDN	48.08
40 SZYMANOWSKY	POL	47.79
41 FORRESTER	GBR	47.61
42 WESTERHOF	NTH	47.33
43 CHEMLA	FRA	47.30
43 FERRARO	ITA	47.30
45 PSZCZOLA	POL	
46 SZWARC	FRA	46.65
47 PODDAR	IND	46.36 45.51
48 THOMSON		45.38
49 DONATH	AUS URU	45.38 45.06
50 KWIECIEN	POL	45.06
51 CONVERY	ZAF	
		43.87
52 MITTELMAN	CAN	41.08

The President's Farewell Message

Let me again, and first thank Mr. Rallis, the former Prime Minister, and the Greek Authorities for their help in holding this 5th edition of the Generali World Masters.

I am also particularly pleased to thank Mr. Alfonso Desiata President of the Generali Group, and Mr. Gantenbein representing Generali here tonight for their tremendous support.

All of us, and you the players, are extremely grateful to Generali who make this event possible.

All together we demonstrate that bridge has really became a sport, and deserves its recognition by the International Olympic Committee of the WBF as an International Sport Federation. This was one of the main reasons for being here in Athens, the birthplace of the Olympic movement.

For that we are specially thankful to Mr. Nikolaou, President of the Greek National Olympic Committee, who honours us with his presence.

Zappion has been the theatre of a great sports championship, and a great show with our bridge vision.

Of course you the players deserve the main congratulations as you were the real actors.

However behind the scenes many people have worked for what has been a real success:

First, our friends from the Hellenic Bridge Federation led by its President George Karlaftis. He made the biggest sacrifice as he did not play for the first time since the creation of the Generali World Masters.

Nevertheless he deserves the gold medal as co-organizer. With him, and I am sure you share my opinion, I want to offer on your behalf flowers to Mrs. Karlaftis, Helen Kontargyris, Annie Karamanli and Fofo Amarantini.

These ladies took care of everything in the preparation, in the welcoming, and in assisting in making you stay enjoyable.

Thanks will go also to Dimitris Ballas the Operations Director, and his staff, among which was Aggelos Mallios the electronic engineer, which shows that international cooperation is always profitable.

This was led by my colleagues on the WBF board, Panos Gerontopoulos, Vice President in charge of the youth and Jean-Claude Beineix EBL Vice President and WBF Councilor.

Indeed the Bulletin Editor Mark Horton came from England, while Stelios Hatzidakis, the Layout Editor is from Greece as is Thanassis Matziaris the Internet Editor of the WBF site, while Koen Gijsman from Bridge Plaza who reports on every hand, comes from the Netherlands.

Many people came from France with the support of the French Bridge Federation: for the Bridge show Jean-Paul and Michelle Meyer, Elisabeth Antelme and Laurent Rigaud, with the Zoomescope crew for the video images.

Costas Kapayiannidis contributed with talent the comments in Greek

The French Director Claude Dadoun, Chief Tournament Director of the EBL, Jean-Louis Pennec managed to direct the tournament very smoothly while Jean-Claude Pourcelot provided the results.

Thus the world, as well as the Greek medias followed your exploits, through newspapers, television, radio and Internet, with a special mention for the juniors who competed for the first time in this big championship, and will discover the beauty and the historical Greek sites.

Congratulation to the winners and medallists in the three competitions.

Thank to all of you who were so kind to confirm how happy you were to participate.

Jose Damiani

President of the World Bridge Federation

Achilles Heel

Achilles, the son of Peleus and Thetis, was educated as a young man by Chiron, the centaur (half man and half horse). One of the conditions of Achilles's parents' marriage (the union of a mortal with a divine sea nymph) was that the son born to them would

die in war and bring great sadness to his mother. To protect him from death in battle his mother bathed the infant in the waters of the river Styx, which conferred invulnerability to any weapon.

Achilles's career as the greatest warrior came to an end when Paris, with the help of Apollo, killed him with an arrow which pierced him in the heel, the one vulnerable spot, which the waters of the River Styx had not touched because his mother had held him by the foot when she had dipped the infant Achilles in the river.



Apolinary Kolwalski

On this deal from the second session of the Men's Generali Masters, only one defender found declarer's weakest point.

Board 1. Dealer North. Love All

	<pre>♠ 974 ♡ 1086 ◇ Q72 ♣ 9762</pre>	
♠ 6 2♡ K 9 7 4◇ I0 6♠ A K Q J 8	N W E S ♠ A 5 3 ♥ Q 3 2 ♦ K J 5 4 ♣ 10 4 3	★ K Q J I0 8♡ A J 5◇ A 9 8 3♣ 5

West	North	East	South
De Falco	Panelewen	Szymanowski	Zia
	Pass	I♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♡	Pass	3NT	All Pass

This was a very typical auction, and when Zia led the three of hearts, declarer won with the jack and played on spades, claiming twelve tricks once the ace had been dislodged.

The same result was recorded at every table except number six, where West was the declarer. North, clearly a student of classical mythology, unerringly selected the two of diamonds as his opening lead. This was the auction:

West	North	East	South
Justin	Kowalski	Poddar	Ferraro
	Pass	I♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

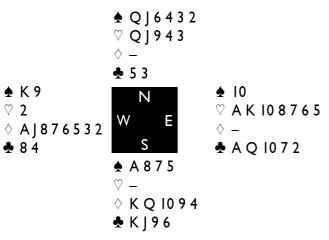
It took Apolinary around one second to earn his side a complete top! Bravo!

MEN

Bits & Pieces

Time trouble is rearing its ugly head, as we try to get information about just some of the deals that have caught the eye during the last three days. Must learn to type faster!

Board 24. Dealer West. Love All



West	North	East	South
Yang	Ferraro	Kapayiannidis	De Falco
3♦	Pass	4♡	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	4♠
Dble	All Pass		

North intended his double to be for penalties, but South did not see it that way. Of course, you will always expect to encounter problems of this kind in an individual, but not when you are playing with your regular partner!

West led his heart, and South ruffed. He played a sneaky nine of diamonds, and when West played low, discarded a club from dummy, allowing East to ruff. Back came a heart, and declarer ruffed low and was overruffed. A club to the ace and another heart promoted West's king of spades.



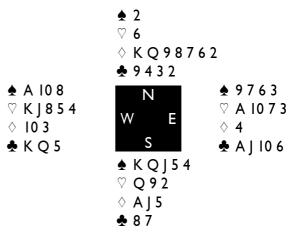
Torr Helness, Norway



Krysztof Martens, Poland

Sometimes you just wish the ground would open up and swallow you.

Board 2. Dealer East, North-South Game



West	North	East	South
Brogeland	Zia	Martens	Helness
		Pass	I♠
2♡	Pass	4♡	All Pass

North led his singleton spade, and declarer won with the ace, cashed the king of hearts, and played a heart to the ace. Now came a club to the king, a club to the jack, and the ace of clubs. Had Zia false-carded in clubs? Helness did not ruff, and now declarer was able to play the ten of clubs and get rid of a losing spade.

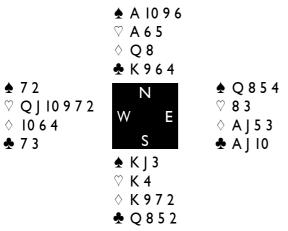
Faced with a similar situation, Tony Forrester made no mistake, taking his queen of hearts, two spades and the ace of diamonds.

WOMEN

Night Moves

fter enjoying a splendid supper, the contestants settled down to what might prove to be the decisive session in the Women's Generali World Masters.

Board 3. Dealer South. East-West Game



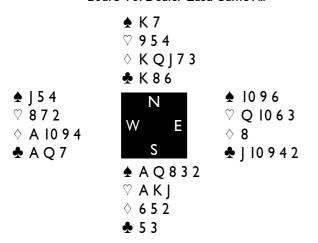
West	North	East	South
Meyers	Vlachaki	McGowan	Harasimowicz
			I ♦
Pass	I♠	Pass	INT
Pas	3NT	All Pass	

West led the queen of hearts, taken by declarer's king. Ewa Harasimowicz played a club to the king and ace, and East returned her remaining heart. If declarer was certain the hearts were 6-2 she should win this trick, and can then get home in a variety of ways. However, she ducked when West overtook it, and when Jill Meyers switched to the four of diamonds declarer was in trouble. She put up dummy's queen, but East produced the ace, and returned the suit, ducked to West's ten. At this point a club or a diamond ensures the defeat of the contract, but that was not easy to see, and West played the seven of spades.

Declarer was quick to seize her chance. She put up the ten, and when it held, cashed the ace of hearts, squeezing East in three suits. McGowan parted with a spade, but now three rounds of that suit was more than she could stand.

This was the only table that the contract was made at, so you can probably work out the match point scores.

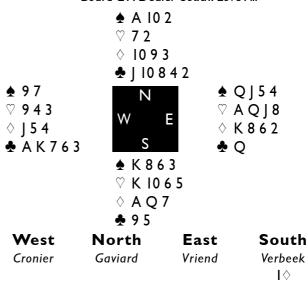
Board 10. Dealer East, Game All



West	North	East	South
Meyers	Harasimowicz	Delor	Landy
•		Pass	I♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West led a heart, and declarer won cheaply with the jack. A diamond to the king was followed by the jack of diamonds. West took the ace, and switched to the queen of clubs. When declarer failed to cover, Meyers was quick to go back to diamonds. Realising that if the spades were 3-3 she was doomed to a poor score, Sandra came to hand and played a club towards the king. She had her nine tricks, but the defenders had four, and +600 was worthless.

Board 27. Dealer South. Love All



The leaders met on the final round of session two. The boards were not exciting, but this caught the eye, not least because Daniele Gaviard responded to her partner's bid. Remind me to ask her if she has read the Editor's Bols Bridge Tip – 'Don't be afraid to respond'. Bep Vriend led the queen of clubs and

Pass

24

switched to the ace and then the queen of hearts. Declarer won with the king, and played dummy's remaining club. West won with the king, and played her last heart. Declarer ruffed, took a winning diamond finesse, and cashed the ace of diamonds before playing the ten of hearts. West ruffed, declarer overruffed and played a club. She was assured of eight tricks, and +110 was a little over average.

Pass

All Pass



Martine Verbeek, The Netherlands

MEN

Final Count Down

aced with the situation of trying to cover three events all playing different boards, our first visit was to the VuGraph, to check if the first few deals would see anyone break clear, thereby allowing us time to concentrate on the other two events.

Board 1. Dealer North. Love All

	♠ J 10 ♡ J 5 3 ◇ K 10 9 7 5 ♣ 9 8 4	
♠ A Q ♡ A K 8 6 ◇ 6 4 3 ♣ 10 7 3 2	N W E S ◆ 98732 ♥ 1092 ♦ 8	♠ K 6 5 4 ♡ Q 7 4 ◇ A Q J 2 ♣ A J

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Abecassis	Martens	Versace
	Pass	INT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

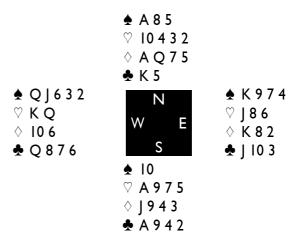


Andrey Gromov, Russia

This looked as if it was all about the opening lead. Versace selected the queen of clubs, and essentially the hand was over. Declarer won, crossed to the ace of spades and took the diamond finesse. When it held, he crossed to the ace of hearts, and repeated the diamond finesse. He then played the jack of clubs to establish his twelfth trick.

+490 was obviously okay, but 12 tricks can be recorded against any lead! Say South leads a spade. Declarer wins, takes the diamond finesse, crosses to a heart and repeats the diamond finesse. He now cashes his red suit winners, effecting a pretty criss cross squeeze without the count against South. Six declarers made twelve tricks, but they only got 17/24, as one declarer made all thirteen - he must have got a small club lead.

Board 2. Dealer East. North/South Game

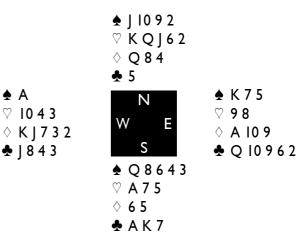


West	North	East	South
Duboin	Abecassis	Martens	Versace
		Pass	Pass
I♠	Dble	2♠	Dble
Pass	3◊	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♡
All Pass			

Martens got very close to bidding Three Spades over Three Diamonds, and it would have been interesting to see if North-South could then have reached the heart game. East might have 'followed the law' at his first turn, possibly again making life difficult, but North might also have preferred Three Hearts to Three Diamonds.

This might well have been a testing hand, even playing with a regular partner, so North-South did well to get to Four Hearts. It earned them 19/24 match points.

Board 7. Dealer South. Game All





Jacek Pszyczola, Poland

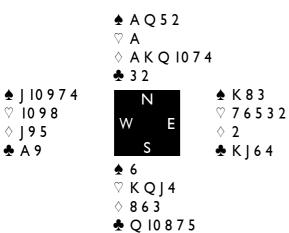
West	North	East	South
Bompis	Bianchedi	Levy	Justin ♠
Pass All Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠

Bompis made an excellent start when he selected the three of hearts for his opening lead. Declarer won with dummy's king, and tried the jack of spades. That might have had a happy outcome at the local club, but not here! West won with the ace, and having no way to know that his partner had trump control, switched to the two of diamonds. Justin put up the queen, and Levy won with the ace and played back his remaining heart. Declarer won and knocked out the king of spades. Bompis discarded the three of clubs, and Levy played back a diamond, Bompis winning with the king and completing a first class defence by giving his partner a heart ruff.

+200 collected 21/24 match points.

There was a heavyweight clash just before the mid session break, when three of the leading pairs met on VuGraph.

Board 11. Dealer South. Love All

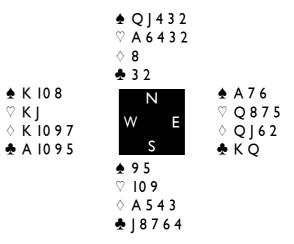


West	North	East	South
Gawrys	Lindkvist	Kokish	Gromov
•			Pass
Pass	1♦	Pass	ΙŸ
Pass	I♠	Pass	INT
Pass	3NIT	All Pass	

Gawrys led the jack of spades, and when everyone ducked, he switched to a heart. Declarer won, and cashed the ace and king of diamonds and played a club to the queen and West's ace. When Gawry's failed to go back to spades, playing a diamond, Kokish was in trouble. He did not want to be endplayed in clubs, so he blanked the king of spades, but Gromov was not fooled, playing the ace of spades and drawing a round of applause from the audience.

+400 earned him 18/24, keeping him well in the hunt.

Board 12. Dealer West. North/South Game



West	North	East	South
Gawrys	Lindkvist	Kokish	Gromov
INT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

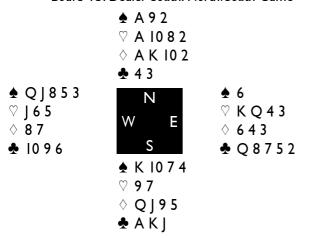
North led the three of spades, and soon afterwards declarer claimed eleven tricks. That looked normal enough, but several



Alain Levy, France

North-South pairs went for big numbers, including two -1400's, so it was worth only seven matchpoints.

Board 15. Dealer South. North/South Game

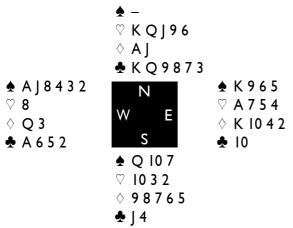


West	North	East	South
Abecassis	Donath	Pszczola	Kowalski
			I ♦
Pass	ΙŸ	Pass	I♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT

West led the ten of clubs, and it was clear to the audience, and the commentators, that declarer could make eleven tricks by either playing on hearts, or getting the spades right. Kowalski won with the jack of clubs, and hoping to get a clue, cashed four rounds of diamonds. West discarded first a heart and then a spade. Was that why declarer now played a spade to the ace?

Ten tricks were now the limit, and at this stage every trick was potentially worth a lot of drachmas! +630 scored only 6/24.

Board 16. Dealer West. East/West Game

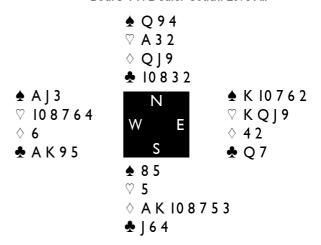


West	North	East	South
Abecassis	Donath	Pszczola	Kowalski
I♠	2♠	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♣	Dble	5♡
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

East did not take a winning view on this wild deal. West led his heart, and East won and switched to a spade. Declarer ruffed, and played a club to the jack, which held. Abecassis ducked the next club as well, and East ruffed. He played another spade, but declarer could ruff, and play a club, discarding his last spade. He was down two, -300, only five match points for East/West.

Final Moments

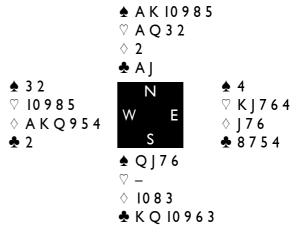
Board II. Dealer South. Love All



This is a defensive problem that is very hard to solve. South leads her singleton heart, and North wins and returns the suit for South to ruff. Should South underlead her diamond honours? If North returns the two of hearts, then I think the answer is no, as partner cannot possibly want what she is apparently asking for. If the three comes back, the situation is more difficult, because the two of hearts is missing. A declarer at the top of their form might have falsecarded, but I think it is more likely that partner has the key card. Whatever, no East-West pair went plus on this deal.

The middle of the round saw the two players who had broken clear of the field in opposition. Our reporter informed the Editor that it had been a rout. Pressure of time has forced us down to just one hand. Would it be unlucky for someone?

Board 13. Dealer North. Game All



West	North	East	South
Cronier	Meyers	Von Arnim	Moller
	ĺ♠	Pass	2♣
2◊	2♡	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♣
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

East led a diamond, and moment later declarer had claimed twelve tricks. As three declarers made an overtrick, North South scored only 3/12 match points, as opposed to the ten the other North-South pairs collected.

Cronier's eventual winning margin? Seven match points!