



ASOCIACION CANARIA DE BRIDGE

# Daily Bulletin

**Editor:** Mark Horton

**Co-editors:** Franco Broccoli, Philippe Brunel, Jos Jacobs, Brian Senior

**Spanish editor:** Jaime Gil de Arana – **Assistant:** Pedro Roca

**Layout Editor:** Stelios Hatzidakis – **Photographer:** Ron Tacchi

*Bulletin 1*

*Sunday, 17 June 2001*

# Welcome to the Happy Islands!



## VUGRAPH MATCHES

**Round 1 13.45**

**Italy v Scotland**

**Round 2 17.30**

**Poland v Bulgaria**

## Captains Meeting

The Open Teams Captains' Meeting will be held at **11.30 a.m.** in the **Minerva Room** at the **Julius Caesar Palace Hotel**.

The Minerva Room is also being used for the Rama.

A splendid ceremony hosted by the inimitable **Anna Maria Torlontano** marked the official opening of the **45th Generali European Bridge Championships**.

A parade of the flags of the competing countries by the pupils of Los Christianos, which was warmly received by the audience, was followed by speeches of welcome on behalf of the Bridge Federations of the Canaries and Spain and the Mayor of Arona.

After welcoming players and officials, the *President of the European Bridge League*, **Gianarrigo Rona** declared the Championships open to tumultuous applause.

### LADIES PAIRS - IMPORTANT!

**All pairs should lodge copies of their convention cards at the Convention Card Desk before starting play.**

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## OPEN TEAMS PROGRAM

### ROUND 1 13.45

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	DENMARK	ICELAND
2	LUXEMBOURG	UKRAINE
3	HUNGARY	NORWAY
4	ENGLAND	BELGIUM
5	THE NETHERLANDS	SLOVENIA
6	GREECE	GERMANY
7	FINLAND	SAN MARINO
8	PORTUGAL	ROMANIA
9	IRELAND	FRANCE
10	LEBANON	ISRAEL
11	BULGARIA	SWITZERLAND
12	YUGOSLAVIA	SWEDEN
13	POLAND	CZECH REP.
14	SPAIN	RUSSIA
15	LIECHTENSTEIN	WALES
16	ITALY	SCOTLAND
17	AUSTRIA	LATVIA
18	TURKEY	CROATIA

### ROUND 2 17.30

Table	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	UKRAINE	DENMARK
2	ICELAND	HUNGARY
3	BELGIUM	LUXEMBOURG
4	NORWAY	THE NETHERLANDS
5	GERMANY	ENGLAND
6	SLOVENIA	FINLAND
7	ROMANIA	GREECE
8	SAN MARINO	FRANCE
9	PORTUGAL	LEBANON
10	SWITZERLAND	IRELAND
11	ISRAEL	YUGOSLAVIA
12	POLAND	BULGARIA
13	RUSSIA	SWEDEN
14	CZECH REP.	LIECHTENSTEIN
15	ITALY	SPAIN
16	LATVIA	WALES
17	SCOTLAND	CROATIA
18	AUSTRIA	TURKEY



## VUGRAPH MATCHES

**13.45 Denmark v Iceland**

**17.30 Poland v Bulgaria**

## CONVENTION CARD DESK

*Sunday 17th June*

09.35 - 10.30 / 13.10 - 14.00 / 17.00 - 17.45

Further details to be given in due course.

## Limerick Competition

As is rapidly becoming a tradition in the two week long international bridge events, we will be holding a Limerick Competition. It is open to those on site in Tenerife and to those who read the Daily Bulletin on the Internet. The rules as usual are very simple, we give you the first line and you provide the other four, it must rhyme and scan, must be printable and most importantly be funny. Of course, the Limerick Competition Editor's decision is final and very subjective and he is also easily swayed by promises of wealth and fame. The prize for succeeding is the glory of having your limerick and name in print.

Locally, bring your endeavours to the Bulletin Room, and via the Internet send them to 'tenlim@hotmail.com'.

Your first line is:

*'There was a young lady from Tenerife,'*

## Photographs of Teams and Players

The EBL is building up a photo database of players to be used primarily on the Internet, but also for publicity purposes.

Our photographer, Aggelos Mallios, is here to accomplish this.

Team photographs will be taken before the start of each match, in accordance with a schedule to be published daily.

Team captains will be informed through the Daily Bulletin and with notices in the team's pigeonhole when their team's photos are to be taken. To avoid double work, **all** players and the npc must be present. The whole procedure will be short, not exceeding 10 minutes per team.

Your cooperation will be very much appreciated.

**Panos Gerontopoulos**  
EBL Secretary

## Greetings from the EBL President

Exellentissimo Alcalde de Arona, Mister President of the World Bridge Federation, Authorities, Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to Arona, Tenerife, Canary Islands for the 45th Generali European Bridge Championships.

After Sorrento, last March, we are proud to be offer you the possibility to enjoy all together another important European event in another marvellous place, the Canary Islands or "The Happy Islands", as they were called by the Romans and Greeks.

The organisation of a championship like this, which involves for two weeks more than seven hundred players, eighty tournament officials and around a hundred journalists, requires very hard work and we, together with our Canarian friends of the Organising Committee, have been working hard on the organisation for the past year.

With the strong support of the Canary Government, the Tenerife Cabildo and the Ayuntamiento of Arona, we have managed to achieve excellent results. However, when the final curtain falls on these championships I hope that you, the real judges of our work, will appreciate our efforts and will take good memories of them back home with you.

I am sure, dear friends, that you will help us run these championships in the best way possible, with your usual fair play, behaviour, ethics and sportsmanship, and thus confirming that the dignity which the Olympic Committee bestowed on bridge, through its recognition, is well deserved and that we are ready to participate in the Olympic Games together with all the other Olympic Sports.

I trust that you will accept with patience and kindness any possible mishaps and errors you may face and will forgive us, remembering that only by working is it possible to make mistakes. In any case, it is your appreciation and satisfaction that give us the greatest gratification.

During these championships we will hold the General Assembly of the European Bridge League. This will be the first General Assembly

in the history of the League, and it will take place as a result of the approval of the new Statutes in Maastricht last September.

The present Executive Committee is in the middle of its term of office, having started in Malta in 1999, and we will now have the election of four Members of the Executive Committee.

I wish to thank my two colleagues who have decided not to stand for re-election for their contribution and support in running the League and I hope to receive their help in the future even though they will no longer be on the Board. I know perfectly well that it is not quite correct protocol, and I hope that our Master of Ceremonies will forgive me, but I would like to invite up onto the stage to receive your applause two very special people and your great friends and mine, Sabine Auken from Germany and Laurens

Hoedemaker from the Netherlands.

I personally, and also on behalf of my colleagues of the Executive Committee, wish to thank all the delegations and players of the European NBOs for coming here. I wish you all a fantastic championship and a pleasant stay in Arona and Mare Nostrum Resort, a beautiful venue which seems almost to have been specially built to host a bridge competition, both for the playing sessions and leisure time. I wish you all the best!

And now, dear friends, I am proud and honoured to declare open the 45th Generali European Bridge Championships, the first of the third millennium.



*Gianarrigo Rona declares the Championships open*



*FAREWELL TO ARMS*



## Zone 6 Championships

The PABF Championships are currently taking place at Le Meridien Hotel, Singapore. There is a double round robin qualifying stage to the knockouts in both the Open and Women's events. Here is some of the action from the first round robin. In Round 2, the host nation took on Indonesia.



*Henky Lasut, Indonesia*

Lei ruffed but that was the end of the defence. Manoppo scored up +150 and wondered if the Singapore East/West could manage to bid and make the heart game in the other room.

Polii's natural 2♣ opening made for a very different auction at the other table. Wong doubled then bid his spades and followed up by supporting hearts in competition. Jusuf had an awful lot considering that his partner had shown opening values. True, half his high-card values were in clubs, and it did sound as though Polii would be very short in hearts, but if the heart fit was only 4-3 then the penalty could be a large one. He was swiftly disillusioned, however. Polii led the ♣K and C.K. Toh ruffed in dummy and cashed the top spades, throwing two diamonds from hand. He continued with a diamond to the king, a second club ruff, a spade ruff and the ace of diamonds. Toh emerged with no less than eleven tricks for +730 and 11 IMPs to Singapore.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ K 7 6 4 2 ♥ A 6 ♦ A Q J 9 ♣ K 9	<table style="margin: auto;"> <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 ♥ 10 9 7 ♦ 8 7 3 2 ♣ A Q J 7 4
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♠ Q ♥ K Q J 5 ♦ K 10 6 5 4 ♣ 8 5 2		♠ A J 10 8 5 3 ♥ 8 4 3 2 ♦ - ♣ 10 6 3									

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ 7 6 5 ♥ A J 7 6 3 ♦ 9 4 ♣ A J 5	<table style="margin: auto;"> <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		♠ - ♥ K 10 9 5 2 ♦ K 8 7 5 ♣ 9 8 6 3
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♠ A K J 10 3 2 ♥ Q 8 4 ♦ A 6 3 2 ♣ -		♠ Q 9 8 4 ♥ - ♦ Q J 10 ♣ K Q 10 7 4 2									

West	North	East	South
<i>Manoppo</i>	<i>Xing</i>	<i>Lasut</i>	<i>Lei</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	INT	Pass
2♦	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Wong</i>	<i>Jusuf</i>	<i>Toh</i>	<i>Polii</i>
Dble	Pass	Pass	2♣
2♠	3♣	Pass	Pass
3♥	Dble	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Manoppo</i>	<i>Xing</i>	<i>Lasut</i>	<i>Lei</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	Pass
Pass	4NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Wong</i>	<i>Jusuf</i>	<i>Toh</i>	<i>Polii</i>
Pass	2NT	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♣	All Pass	3♦

A difference in opinion as to what a 1♠ - 4♣ raise would look like cost Singapore dear. I would not dream of going on with that North hand but Xing obviously expected something better for the bid and tried for slam. Against 5♣, the lead was the ♦7, ducked by Manoppo. Xing won cheaply, pitching a heart from dummy, and continued by drawing the ace of spades then playing a second spade to the king. He ran the ♦J now, losing to the king, and the club switch meant one down for -50. Declarer had a blind spot, of course, perhaps brought on by a conviction that the ♦K was on his left. The lead had ensured two quick diamond tricks and throwing clubs from dummy would have guaranteed the contract.

In the other room, Polii's weak two opening made sure that his side stopped safely in 4♠; +420 and 10 IMPs to Indonesia, who went on to win by 40-27 IMPs, 18-12 VPs.

In Round 6, the Indonesian Women took on Chinese Taipei.

Just looking at the East/West hands, you would want to be in 4♥, and Manoppo must have smiled to himself when he saw the 5-0 heart split at trick one. Xing led ace and another heart and

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ A J 10		♠ K 6 4
♥ A J 10 8 5		♥ Q 9 7
♦ 4 2		♦ 10
♣ J 8 5		♣ A Q 9 7 6 3
♠ 7 5 3 2	<b>N</b>	
♥ 2	<b>W</b>	<b>E</b>
♦ K J 9 7 3		
♣ K 10 5	<b>S</b>	
		♠ Q 9 8
		♥ K 6 4 3
		♦ A Q 8 6 5
		♣ 4

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Syofian	Gong	Bojoh	Hu
		1♣	Dble
1♠	4♥	All Pass	

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Wu	Korengkeng	Liu	Riantini
		2♣	Dble
3♣	4♥	All Pass	

Four Hearts looks to be an uphill struggle, with the red suits breaking unevenly and the spade and diamond kings offside. However, it is not quite as bad as it looks and Gong brought it home with the aid of a misdefence. Bojoh led her singleton diamond and Gong put in the queen. When Syofian won the king she thought it very likely that her partner would be ruffing the next round, but didn't want to risk returning a low diamond just in case she was not. Syofian returned the ♦9, the lower of her two equals, and Bojoh duly ruffed. Perhaps affected by the fact that her partner had bid spades, she did not read the ♦9 as suit preference for clubs, but for spades. Her low spade return was all that Gong needed. She won the spade, drew trumps in two rounds and could pitch her remaining spade loser on the ace of diamonds for +620.

In the other room, the Precision 2♣ opening meant that Wu had supported clubs rather than bid her non-suit of spades. Liu cashed the ace of clubs before switching to the diamond. Korengkeng needed the finesse so took it and again West won and returned the ♦9 for East to ruff. Here, however, Liu switched back to clubs, leading low. In the fullness of time declarer had to rely on the spade finesse and when that lost was one down; -100 and 12 IMPs to Chinese Taipei.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ 9 8 4 3		♠ Q 7
♥ J 8 7 5 3		♥ Q 9 4
♦ 5		♦ Q 9 7 2
♣ A 5 4		♣ K 10 8 3
♠ K 10 5 2	<b>N</b>	
♥ A K 2	<b>W</b>	<b>E</b>
♦ J 10 6 3		
♣ Q J	<b>S</b>	
		♠ A J 6
		♥ 10 6
		♦ A K 8 4
		♣ 9 7 6 2

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Syofian	Gong	Bojoh	Hu
			1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	INT
Dble	All Pass		

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Wu	Korengkeng	Liu	Riantini
			INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

Opponents of the weak no trump often claim that it risks going for large penalties. Here, the weak no trump opening emerged relatively unscathed, while the weak no trump rebid conceded the penalty.

Where Riantini opened INT, Korengkeng used Stayman to scramble into 2♣, her 2♥ rebid having shown four spades and four or five hearts in a weak hand. Wu found the excellent lead of a low spade to the queen and ace and Riantini tried the ten of hearts, which ran to Liu's queen. Liu returned her remaining spade to the ten and Wu switched to the queen of clubs. Riantini won the ♣A and cashed her top diamonds, pitching a club from dummy. Next she played a heart and Wu won, cashed the king of spades and other top heart, then led diamonds. Dummy could make a trump but that was all; down three for -300.

Minus 300 did not look great for Indonesia but in the other room Syofian passed over the 1♦ opening then doubled INT to show a decent hand including diamond length. Bojoh was happy to pass that and North/South had nowhere to run. Again the lead was a low spade for the queen and ace. Hu returned the jack of spades to the king and Syofian switched to the ♣Q and, when that was ducked, continued with the ♣J to dummy's ace. Hu played a spade to the ten and Syofian switched the attack to diamonds. With no way of reaching the dummy, Hu was held to the four top tricks with which she had begun; three down for -800 and 11 IMPs to Indonesia, who won the match by 54-30 IMPs, 20-10 VPs.

Rankings After Round Robin One:

OPEN		WOMEN	
Chinese Taipei	208	China	230
China	197	Australia	199.75
Indonesia	186	New Zealand	187
Macau	169	Hong Kong	174
Thailand	166	Indonesia	171
Australia	163	Chinese Taipei	165
Japan	162	Thailand	164
New Zealand	160	Japan	159
Singapore	152	Singapore	146.75
Hong Kong	146	Korea	130
Malaysia	145	Philippines	121
Philippines	114		

## Calling All Open Team Captains

In your Pigeon Hole you will find a request for a Team Profile. Please try and fulfil our modest request, particularly that of posing for a Team Photo.

## Master Class

Warm up for the Championships by trying to solve these declarer play problems.

We tested them on *Chief Commentator* Jean-Paul Meyer, who will give you his thoughts tomorrow.

Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ A K 6 2  
♥ 10 8  
♦ K Q  
♣ K Q 10 9 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q 9 7 3  
♥ K Q J 6 4  
♦ 9 2  
♣ 7 2

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Pass	4♥	1♦ All Pass	1♥

West leads a diamond. East takes the ace and returns the suit. How do you plan the play?

Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ J 10 7 6 4  
♥ —  
♦ K 9 8 7  
♣ 9 8 5 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

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

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
4♥	Pass 4♣	1♥ All Pass	1♠

West leads a small heart. What is your general plan?

Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ A K J  
♥ J 3  
♦ J 9 5 3  
♣ A 10 5 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 7 5  
♥ A 6  
♦ A K 7 4  
♣ K Q J 8 7

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
2♥ Pass	3NT! 6♣	Pass Pass All Pass	1♣ 4♥

West leads the king of hearts.

Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ A 10  
♥ A Q  
♦ A K 10 6 2  
♣ Q 9 8 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

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

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Pass Pass	1♦ 2NT 4♣	Pass Pass All Pass	1♠ 3♥

West leads the nine of diamonds. Can you make Four Spades?

## Ladies Pairs

The first session of the Ladies Pairs will be at 10.00 a.m. in the Tenerife Room at the Julius Caesar Palace Hotel. The Ladies will play three qualifying sessions. Then the first twenty-eight pairs will play the final. This will be played over three sessions (barometer scoring). There will be a carry-over with the weight of one session. The consolation final will be two sessions.

The Tenerife Room is adjacent to the Minerva Room which is where one can watch the Rama.

## Impressions from the players

This is what some of them think before the event gets underway.

**Mabel Bocchi**, Norberto Bocchi's sister and press attachée of the Italian Bridge Federation:

*Our team is in a quiet mood. They are realising what they are worth but they are staying humble. It will be 50-50 between Italy and Poland.*

**Federica Zorzoli**, assistant to the treasurer, is very reluctant:

*What I have to say is not for publication...*

**Ghigo Ferrari**, the tournament manager, realises he has to use his forces economically:

*Looking at the length of the corridors here, I brought my electric bike from Italy to move around here in the hotel.*

**Guido Ferraro**, Member of the Italian Open Team:

*Mathematically, we will be first...but I have always been bad at mathematics.*

**Jean-Paul Meyer**, Chief Rama Commentator:

*Tenerife reminds me of one of my happiest memories about the Vilamoura championships in 1995. We all have joined forces to make the event as comfortable as possible for both players and officials. The battle for the gold will be between Italy and Poland, the other medal candidate will be France, Norway and Bulgaria.*

**Laurens Hoedemaker**, 2nd EBL Vice President, is prepared for everything:

*If necessary, we will all be volunteering to carry boards from one table to the other.*

**Maria Luisa Bondia**, on-site organiser, remains confident:

*With all the problems we have had, the only thing I can say today is Good Luck!*

**Marinella Canesi**, Italian Ski Champion, is travelling through empty space:

*I lost 50% of my luggage at the airport, as well as my system book; if she would lose her partner now, she should be able to win!*

**Panos Gerontopoulos**, the Internet supervisor, shows great optimism:

*Our website is completely new; we are going to perform miracles!*

**Paola and Antonella**, Lavazza girls:

*Each of us will be serving 300 cups of coffee a day. We will not have time to see the sun or to go to the beach. What a pity...*

As **Françoise Hardy** said:

*Here I am, planted in front of my machine...*

**Philippe Soulet** and **Michel Abécassis**, members of the French Open Team:

*In the end we managed to select a French team in which there are no problems...*

**Sanda Enciu**, Tournament director, is looking at life from the rosy side:

*How wonderful to be all united in the same hotels. With the explosion of e-bridge and internet, you get the impression that the family gets bigger...*

**Sundseth per Bryde**, NPC Ladies Norway, thinks she is at a horse racing track:

*I am going for the management strategy. I will field the same team as at the recent Nordic Championships; they finished only third there because they were saving their energy to finish first here in Tenerife.*

**François Colin**, Scorer of the French Team:

*He really is a vintage scorer now. He saves the hands played in his database of hands (containing about 8000 championship hands by now) and uses them when teams need a training program...*

## Icelanders are hoping for a trip to Bali

By Svend Novrup

Several teams had a long stay at Madrid airport before continuing to Tenerife on Saturday night. One of the teams was the Icelandic One, in which one of the world champions from Yokohama 1991, Jon Baldursson, has been included as the partner of Karl Sigurjartarson only recently because of illness in the family of Sigurjartarson's original partner. They have only tested their partnership in one event, the Rottneros Cup in Sweden, with participation of national champions from all Nordic countries.

'We won it, so we are undefeated so far,' Baldursson says with a big smile. 'Here we hope to be in the fight for the last two berths for the world championships, as we think that Italy, Norway, and Poland for sure will take up three of the five. But do not be mistaken, we always fight to come first!'

The team likes the round robin format and would deplore it if that was changed in some way. One of the charming things about the Europeans is that you meet every other nation, and even if it demanded shorter matches than now, I still think that we should stick to this formula.'

Iceland does not field a Ladies team in Tenerife. Baldursson comments, 'It's a little amazing that the standard of the Icelandic Ladies is not so high as the general level in Iceland is very good. On the other hand, if Hjoerdis Eythorsdottir had stayed in Iceland, this would have meant a lot to Icelandic ladies' bridge. She is, by the way, still eligible to play for Iceland, so you never know...'

(Many will remember when Hjoerdis was playing in the Icelandic team wearing a T-shirt saying: 'I'm Icelandic, What's your excuse?')

The Icelandic players have their expenses covered but receive no compensation for loss of income. This means that we are a small group of players who use all our holidays on bridge, never having a real holiday but we have a very good time together.'

The Icemen will face a difficult task already in the opening round, meeting one of their traditional difficult opponents, Denmark. e-bridge has chosen this match as our first round VuGraph presentation.

## SPECIAL OFFER TO IBPA WORKING JOURNALISTS

Perhaps, by now, most of you have had the opportunity to explore the website of e-bridge ([www.e-bridgemaster.com](http://www.e-bridgemaster.com)). If you have not, there is a seven-day free trial available for everyone. The e-bridge News Pages are always free and can be found at: [www.e-bridgemaster.com/news/news\\_hub.asp](http://www.e-bridgemaster.com/news/news_hub.asp), a URL you will be pleased to bookmark.

In order to create and maintain a site as comprehensive as e-bridge's, a significant capital investment was required, and since February, e-bridge has, inevitably, become a subscription site, albeit it at a bargain basement price.

From the outset, e-bridge has sought to develop and maintain a mutually beneficial relationship with IBPA and its worldwide membership. The company has sponsored and continues to sponsor major world and zonal championships and a variety of contests for journalists, including "Best" deals and Clippings, but long-term plans include a more "intimate" relationship with IBPA "working" journalists, i.e. those who enjoy a print or flesh-and-blood medium for their creative efforts (columns, magazine features, newsletters, teaching seminars, etc).

e-bridge is at this time pleased to offer these IBPA members a complimentary three-month subscription to its website and all its features, with the subscription renewable in three-month increments to demonstrably active users. Those of you who write daily or weekly features will appreciate how convenient it can be to have access to a vast supply of suitable material to draw on for inspiration and, with minor modification, to suit individual needs. On the e-bridge site you will find VuGraph (most often including analysis by expert commentators), coverage of all major events and a wealth of articles and features. You will find new material each week, rivaling the scope and quality of the best monthly magazines, so interested journalists should have everything they need to make their working lives easier.

In return, e-bridge asks only that you include the e-bridge website address and any other topical information not inconsistent with the articles you "create" from the e-bridge content, that you provide e-bridge with an electronic version of those articles, and that (where permissible) you grant e-bridge the right to reprint your articles, with full accreditation to the author and original "print" source.

e-bridge would be pleased to have qualifying journalists play at least some of their online bridge in the Social and/or Tournament Rooms and in our special events, such as the Internet Open Pairs World Championship, free to all our members. If our site is to flourish, we will need to increase our membership, and we hope that our friends in IBPA will find enough that they like to help us spread the word to friends and readers alike.

If you believe you qualify as a working journalist please provide supporting information (names and details of print outlets for your work) to Richard Laufer: [richard@e-bridgemaster.com](mailto:richard@e-bridgemaster.com) or David Libchaber: [davidl@e-bridgemaster.com](mailto:davidl@e-bridgemaster.com), or call our New York office at +212-483-1055. These gentlemen will set up your accounts for you and answer any questions you might have.

## Championship Diary

*The Editor reports on the daily events at and around the Championship venue.*

### Friday 15 June 2001

A trouble free flight via Madrid sees us arrive in Tenerife at the same time as Brian Senior, who has flown direct from Birmingham. We discuss the style of the bulletins on the short journey from the airport. An inspection of the facilities reveals that they are first class but our computers are not installed so work will have to wait until Saturday.

While we are on our travels we meet most of the usual suspects. They include our hands-on President, **Gianarrigo Rona**, who seems to be in about ten different places at once, **Jean-Claude Beineix**, who already has the duplicating team working at full steam, **Gianni The Professor Baldi** preparing his outstanding VuGraph, Ton Kooijman, wondering if the tables will all fit into the room and **Panos Gerontopoulos**, getting ready to inform the world via the Internet.

We collect the uniforms that every member of staff will be wearing but doubt they will be able to find one big enough to fit our photographer.

Our next port of call is the local supermarket, where we stock up on refreshments, mainly of the liquid variety. For the uninitiated we recommend the wines of Miguel Torres, Spain's finest winemaker. They offer excellent quality at affordable prices. We encounter a President and a Captain - they naturally predict their respective countries will qualify for a trip to Bali.

We bring the day to a close with some decent 'redders' and cheese whilst watching the Women's rhythmic gymnastic championships from Geneva. We make Bulgaria and Belarus the clear winners, but the judges do not agree. Perhaps they are awarding their marks on a different basis?

### Saturday 16 June

Breakfast - it seems a good idea to get down for 08.00 to beat the crowds - is followed by the serious business of installing software. My machine only survives a few hours before retiring hurt and I have to go through the laborious process for a second time. I also lose the article I have been working on. I introduce a system of fines for failing to wear the uniform, exempting Ron Tacchi, who cannot fit into the XL supplied. Judging by what he eats at breakfast even XXL might not suffice.

The Press Room is operational and Manager Elly Ducheyne is looking great. Steen Møller drops in and presents us with a bottle of wine. Bravo!

We start to consider who will qualify in the Open series. Everyone has Italy, Poland and Norway on their lists, but who can discount the chances of Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, England, France, Iceland, Netherlands, Russia and Sweden? The Women's event looks just as difficult to predict. Austria, Germany and England are regarded as certainties but what about France, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Poland, Russia and Scotland?

We resolve to sound out a few players at the opening ceremony. Meanwhile our supplies of both money and wine are running low so we take a break.

A good night's sleep is going to be required as the serious business starts tomorrow.