

Daily News

World Bridge Championships
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Jean Paul Meyer *Co-ordinator*

Mark Horton *Editor* Brent Manley & Brian

Senior *Assistant Editors* Stelios Hatzidakis *Layout Editor* Ron Tacchi *Photographer*

Guy Dupont *French Editor*

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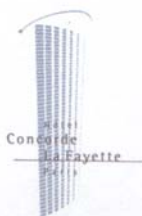
WE ♥ PARIS!



The world's finest bridge players are assembled here in Paris to compete in the ultimate competitions for the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup and Seniors Bowl. The presence of such a galaxy of stars is entirely due to the efforts of one man, the indefatigable **President of the World Bridge Federation, José Damiani**.

One year ago in Maastricht our President shared the stage with a magician. This year he needs no such accompaniment, having performed some magic of his own in bringing these great Championships to the French capital. The work and preparation that usually takes two years of planning has been accomplished in just twenty days. Vive le Président!

Vive la France!





José Damiani Opens the Championships

Here we are. Finally.

It's good to see you – all of you – with the exception, unfortunately, of the Pakistani players. However, I think that we can easily understand their absence as their families need them at this difficult time.

A horrible time indeed and that's the reason why I am so proud of our decision, and so grateful for your positive response despite all the pressure.

Thank you. Thank you so very much for being here in Paris. Bridge has shown, in the midst of these tragic circumstances, its solidarity and our family is even stronger than it was.

If we all shared the horror felt by the Americans on 11th September and still all feel American, if we will never forget the tragedy, nonetheless we made the decision to show the world that we are able to react, that we are still standing and that we will continue to fight for our ideals – one of them being Olympism and the other our own belief in 'Bridge for Peace'.

60 million bridge players in the world can represent a formidable lobbying group. As the most visible part of this group, it is up to us to show the way.

We believe in the educational value of our sport where respect of the rules and ethics of the competition does not preclude its conviviality and our wish for peace.

Such are the values that we share throughout the world and that we wish to defend all together.

You will understand that I wish to thank the US teams particularly who will all be competing here, whether in the Bermuda Bowl, the Venice Cup or the Seniors Bowl. Thank you to all six teams.

Congratulations for this sign of courage and friendship can be extended to all the other teams too, and in particular to Indonesia.

As a matter of fact, some would have understood if, since we were obliged to cancel Bali – which I repeat we chose originally for its delightful setting and the kindness of its inhabitants – the Indonesians had decided not to participate in these championships. On the contrary, their presence here confirms that we are right to believe that our sport is able to overcome all the barriers of race and religion. I want to thank both teams, the men and the women, and especially the Chairman of the Organizing Committee in Bali, Roy Titardji, whose understanding and cooperation have been absolutely extraordinary. Your support goes straight to my heart. I will never forget it. The characteristic of a world organization such as ours, the World Bridge Federation, is to bring people together, not to divide them. That's the reason why I was so sad, four years ago, that the Israeli women did not make it to Hammamet and so happy today that they are here with us in response to my invitation.

So we are all here together and that is really fantastic and gives us the best reward for all the work that had to be done to relocate these championships in such a short time.

I have to confess something to you: I have heard it said in certain quarters that we were very courageous to undertake this task. The truth is that we were perhaps a little blinded by our willingness to do it. Everyone knows that bravery is often a result of ignorance just as victory is as close to defeat as the tarpeienne rock at the Capitol.

It has not been easy. In fact, it has been extremely difficult despite all the sympathy we have received from all of you around the world.

The choice of venue was the result of a huge search, as the first choice of the French Bridge Federation turned out to be too small, and hopefully you will like the new one. Bridge is a sport. The World Bridge Championships will be played at the Stade de France which is marvellous but quite expensive. The Concorde La Fayette hotel is not too far away and quite convenient for the second week. Also, for Paris, it is very reasonably priced. Unfortunately, it was unavailable for the first week.

However, I was quite naïve in believing that some private sponsors or some public authorities would help. There is a great difference between the speeches and the action.

Nevertheless, we can understand their problems in terms of image, policy and security.

But let me thank very warmly those who did support us straight away, such as Audi and Citroën for the cars, Lavazza for the coffee, Château d'Eau for the water, Rank Xerox for the copiers and, hopefully, the Ministry of Sport, the Municipality of Paris and the region of Paris.

What was very positive on the other hand was that many people offered to help – and did help: thank you Gianarrigo and Jean Louis – and, as well as my own team, in particular three women: Christine, Anna and Carol, I found a very dynamic cooperation with the French Bridge Federation, the Paris district and my friend and colleague Jean-Claude Beineix. I must admit that I was discouraged from time to time, but their presence and their positive reactions were always of great help. Thank you all very much. You deserve to be applauded.

We still have a great deal to do in order to achieve a truly successful championship but we believe it can be done.

If the championships prove to be a success, it will be thanks to your cooperation, understanding and discipline.

We are aware that the conditions are not ideal, but we will do our best for your comfort, your safety and finally your pleasure. We have a date in two weeks time to judge the result of this wager.

These championships are dedicated to the victims of terrorism – and for this reason we have simplified the ceremony - but also to you, the players, because you are our only concern, because we know you, and because we love you.

God bless our bridge family.

The show must go on.

I declare the Paris World Bridge Championships open.

José Damiani

President of the World Bridge Federation

**Monday 22 October 2001
Bermuda Bowl Schedule**

Round 1

Egypt	Argentina
Norway	Hong Kong
India	France
Israel	Guadeloupe
Russia	Indonesia
New Zealand	Poland
USA I	USA II
Brazil	Australia
Italy	Japan

Round 2

Hong Kong	Egypt
France	Norway
Guadeloupe	India
Indonesia	Israel
Poland	Russia
USA II	New Zealand
Australia	USA I
Japan	Brazil
Argentina	Italy

Round 3

Egypt	France
Norway	Guadeloupe
India	Indonesia
Israel	Poland
Russia	USA II
New Zealand	Australia
USA I	Japan
Brazil	Italy
Hong Kong	China



VuGraph	
Monday 22 October 2001	
10.00-12.50	Russia - Indonesia
14.00-16.50	France - Norway
17.20-20.10	Brazil - Italy

**Monday 22 October 2001
Venice Cup Schedule**

Round 1

Japan	Italy
Canada	England
Australia	Austria
Germany	India
Brazil	France
Netherlands	South Africa
USA I	USA II
Venezuela	Israel
China	Indonesia

Round 2

England	Japan
Austria	Canada
India	Australia
France	Germany
South Africa	Brazil
USA II	Netherlands
Israel	USA I
Indonesia	Venezuela
Italy	China

Round 3

Japan	Australia
Canada	India
Australia	France
Germany	South Africa
Brazil	USA II
Netherlands	Israel
USA I	Indonesia
Venezuela	China
England	Italy

Badges

It is essential that you wear your badges at all times. Access to the Stade de France will not be permitted without them.

Calling all Captains

You are asked to pay extra special attention to the Supplemental Conditions of Contest, especially 17.1, relating to the Disclosure of Systems and Conventions.

During the Round Robin Stage of the Bermuda Bowl & Venice Cup, if a pair is found to have used a convention not listed on its Convention Card, it will be given a disciplinary penalty of up to two VPs deducted from the teams score. In addition, the Tournament Director gives an adjusted score if he deems that the opponents are damaged by the use of such an unknown convention. The pair will not play again until it has corrected its card to the satisfaction of the Chief Tournament Director. If the pair re-offends in this way they will not be allowed to play in partnership for the rest of the event. The same penalties will apply to pairs in the Seniors Bowl and the WTOTC and, in addition, such penalties will be applied should any pair in either of these events be found to have used a Brown Sticker Convention.



Smoking Regulations

Smoking is not permitted in the playing rooms or the corridors at the Stade de France. You will be able to smoke in the seating area of the stadium itself (the Tribunes).

The bridge content of this issue of the Daily News is necessarily restricted in content. However, by tradition there must be one deal, so to give you the chance to get in the mood for the serious business of tomorrow, here is a problem for you to solve:

Dealer North. None Vul

You are South and as usual your hand is nothing to write home about.

♠ 10 8 7 5 2
♥ J 8
♦ J 9 7
♣ J 8 2

West North East South
1♦ INT* Pass
3NT All Pass

Your partner's opening bid might be based on a three-card suit and East's overcall is in the Polish style, promising a four card major and a longer minor.
Your lead?

Shuttle Buses

On Monday 22nd the first shuttle will leave at 08.45 from the front of the Hotel Concorde La Fayette.

It is extremely important that priority is given to the four players, the captain or the recorder for the first match.

There will be a second shuttle at 12.00 noon for the Seniors and the players for the second match.

The WBF counts on your discipline, with regard to the use of these shuttles.

Cards in Your Eyes

Study the playing cards being used in the Championships.

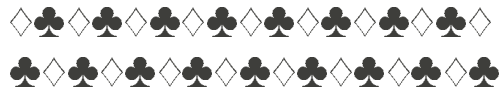
Can you spot a subtle change?

There is nothing new in the fact that they are bar-coded – that enables them to be dealt using the Duplimate machines.

We call them Ethical Cards and the name is SIC – Symetrical International Cards.

Take a moment to familiarise yourselves to the new faces before you start play.

In a few days we will have a new pattern (a bigger and better one).



How did you fare with the lead problem? It comes from the International team tournament in Northern Cyprus, which was won by Hungary who defeated Bulgaria in the final.



The harbour at Girne, Cyprus.

Dealer North. None Vul

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

The hero sitting in the South seat, one John Sqibovitch, (known to his friends as Squiffy) unerringly selected the ♦J!

Did you?



So as we embark on this latest edition of the World Championships we remind you of the President's motto:

'Bridge for Peace'