

The conclusion of a highly successful Bridge Olympiad and (Summer) Olympic Games raises questions that will arise if bridge is accepted into the (Winter) Games of 2006. The priority of the authorities is simply to get in, but here are some other policy matters worth debate:

1. **Eligibility** To represent a National Organisation, bridge has: birthplace, citizenship, residence, or first allegiance. How will the more restrictive Olympic rules affect these?

2. **Gender** The Summer Olympics had one sport, equestrianism, with events Open to either sex, and so *no Womens event*. Can bridge keep its unique Open/Women categories? If not, it must become Men/Women (as in the WBF Individual), or Open with no Womens event.

3. **Age** The Summer Olympics, it appears, had only one sport with an age limit event. Oddly, this was mens football (under 23). Does this kill the WBF's idea of a Junior event to show bridge-players can be young?

4. **Number of medal events** In the Summer Olympics the team sports (baseball, basketball, beach volleyball, football, handball, hockey, softball, volleyball, and water polo) had only one event per gender and so at most two medal events. Other "combat" (two-sides) sports (badminton, boxing, judo, fencing, lawn tennis, table tennis, taekwondo, wrestling) had variations (individual, pairs, mixed, or weight) and so more medal events. Bridge would be pleased to have two events: Mens teams and Womens teams, but must choose a priority for other events if possible.

5. **Performance-enhancing drugs** Bridge has already accepted the IOC list of banned substances. It has so far avoided whether there are bridge-specific performance-enhancing drugs. The Dutch Bridge Federation is reported to be doing research. The bridge public, fortunately, is not aware that any such drug exists, so maybe the less publicity given to the matter the better. But the moment players know of such a drug, there will be those prepared to take it. The authorities then have to be ready to stop it.

6. **One bronze winner only** The WBF now has the right policy: in a knockout medal event there must be a playoff for bronze. The only sport with two bronze is boxing. A boxer losing a semifinal may be in no physical condition to play off for bronze. Bridge cannot argue that. The confusion in Lille when two teams in one event were allowed bronze medals arose through an administrative error and must not set a precedent. For Montreal the Conditions of Contest must show that all medal events have only one bronze winner.

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Maastricht Clippings: Please note both the e-bridge Competition and the Dutch Bridge Federation's request inside.

Patrick Jourdain – Editor

OLYMPIAD ROUND-UP

Profiles of the Canadian Womens Team were not given when winning their silver medal, and therefore missing from the Summary Bulletin. However, some details were given in Bulletin 6 Page 15. This included:

Three are spouses of players in the Open team: (George Mittelman & Dianna Gordon, Eric Kokish & Beverly Kraft, John Carruthers & Katie Thorpe). Other team members are Francine Cimon, Rhoda Habert, Martine Lacroix and npc Jim Green.

Thorpe, Kraft, and Gordon live in Toronto, Habert in Paris, Cimon & Lacroix in Québec.

Silver medallists in the University Teams, **Italy**, were: Bernardo Biondo - Riccardo Intonti; Mario d'Avossa - Stelio di Bello; Stefano Uccello: N.P.C.: Gianpaolo Rinaldi Coach : Andrea Pagani

The bronze medallists in the University event, **Denmark**, were: K. Kronow, A. Sigsgaard, A. Hagen, G. Bjarnarson.

The **e-bridge Recovery Trophy** was awarded to the University Team to gain most places in the second half of the event, from standings after Match 11 to the end (Match 21). Tie to be split by VPs. The winner was Indonesia. Three teams gained five places: Netherlands (VP gain 376-180=196), France (373-174=199), and Indonesia (347.5-145.5=202). The winning team is invited to attend the 2001 Cavendish in Las Vegas Nevada courtesy of World Bridge Production, the organisers, with free entry.



E-bridge sponsored the University event and are sponsoring a Clippings Award for IBPA. To be eligible clippings must mention the name

e-bridge, and a named author who is an IBPA member.

There will be three prizes: \$300, \$200, and \$100

Clippings must either be sent to our Clippings Secretary, Maureen Dennison

or direct to David Birman:
birmand@inter.net.il

Deadline 1st February 2001.

Larry Cohen adds this story about the most freakish deal:

One of my favorite sayings in bridge is, "When in doubt, bid one more on freak deals." One of Marty Bergen's favorite sayings is, "Voids are magical." Both factors came into play on this deal from the Round Robin in the recent Olympiad in Maastricht.

Dealer: North	A K Q 10 4
E/w Game	2
	10 6 5 2
	8 6 3
J 9 6 5 3 2	--
A 10 9 4	Q J 8 7
--	J 3
A 9 4	K Q J 10 7 5 2
	8 7
	K 6 5 3
	A K Q 9 8 7 4
	--

It would have been fun to watch this board at all 36 tables of the Olympiad.

With the heart finesse on, East-West can make all 13 tricks in clubs for 2140, but, the most common contract was five diamonds by South (usually doubled).

What happens in diamonds? Unless West finds a spade lead (spade ruff, heart over, spade ruff), that contract makes. It might even make six if the defense doesn't get any spade ruffs. In fact, the most common result was five diamonds (doubled) making six, 650 North-South. That's quite a result on a hand where their opponents have a grand slam.

Many Norths opened 1 or 2 . East overcalled in clubs and South introduced diamonds. The race was on. No matter how many diamonds North-South bid, it was always right for East-West to bid one more in clubs--all the way up to 7 . And, conversely, no matter how many clubs East-West bid, it was always right for North-South to bid one more in diamonds, all the way to 7 .

In one round-robin match, Austria won 22 imps against Switzerland by making 1090 on the North-South cards (six diamonds doubled on a club lead) in one room. At the other table North started with two spades and East overcalled three clubs. Then, a bidding war ended with East playing 7 x, which, of course made for 2330. I know the IMP table fairly well, but I have to admit that I don't know offhand how many imps you win for 3420 on one deal (that's 1090 + 2330). If you consult the IMP table, you'll see that this is 22 imps (just short of the 3500 required for 23 imps).

I actually played on a team once and lost 24 imps ... on a deal where we were -110 against two spades at our table! Our teammates had a mixup and played in a redoubled cue-bid (a 2-1 fit, down 7 vulnerable; -4000. To lose the maximum of 24 imps you need to lose more than 4,000; 4000 and 110 did the trick. I give my teammate credit for being clever in the comparison. We read, "-110" and he replied "Lose them all."

* *Patrick Jourdain reports:* When Wales met Tunisia in the Olympiad Round robin, Abdelmalek, East, defended well against a slam played by Tim Rees of Wales:

Round 7	A 6
Board 8	J
Dealer: West	K Q J 5 4 2
Love all	A J 10 9
9 7	K 8 2
10 9 7 3	K Q 8
8 7	10 9 6
K 8 7 5 3	Q 6 4 2
	Q J 10 5 4 3
	A 6 5 4 2
	A 3
	None

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Thomas	Lakdar	Denning	Jedidi
1	Pass	1	
Pass	2	Pass	2
Pass	3	Pass	3
Pass	4	All Pass	

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Merli	Goodman	Abdelmalek	Rees
Pass	1	Pass	1
Pass	3	Pass	3
Pass	3	Pass	4NT

Pass 5 Dble 6
All Pass

In the Closed Room Tunisia's 4 made 11 tricks. In the Open Room North's aggressive 3, and East's double of 5 led to Rees facing 6 on the awkward heart lead.

He won and ran the queen of trumps. If East takes this the slam makes easily, but East let the trump hold, killing the slam. It could have been made if South takes a couple of heart ruffs, as the player with the king of spades has no heart to cash when in.

* *The grand slam bid by Liz McGowan & Fiona McQuaker (Maastricht Special page 11) where many pairs stopped in game, was also bid by Marijke van der Pas (West) and Bep Vriend (East), reports Bep:*

This was our auction versus Israel Migry Zur Companila (North) and Ruth Levit-Porat (Sth):

board 20, dealer East, Game All.

K J 9 7	A Q 6 3
A K 4	Q 9 8 7 2
K 6 2	A 5
A 6 5	9 7

West (Marijke)	East (Bep)
1	1
2NT	3
4	5
5	6
7	Pass

Explanation of our bidding:

2NT = 18-19 nearly GF 3 = 5 +4, GF
4 = sets spades 5 = first control
5 = first control 6 = third control

7 bid and made, lead to Q, small spade for the Jack, to the Ace, to the King, ruff with the A etc.

Opponents at the other table stopped in game.

* *Mike Whittaker, a new IBPA member, reports:* The 4th ACBL World Computer Bridge Championships, held during the recent Maastricht Olympiad and sponsored by MSN Gaming Zone, proved to be the closest yet. The winner was the American program, Meadowlark, which beat Q+Bridge (Germany) by just 2 IMPs after gaining 5 IMPs on the last board of the 50-board final.

The defending champion, the American program GIB, did not compete but it was there in spirit. Meadowlark has ties with the GIB camp and used an old version of the GIB playing engine. (GIB has used Meadowlark's bidding database).

The Maastricht event also saw the successful debut of a Table Manager program, used to control the match between four PCs, each one allowed sight of only one of the four hands. It is expected that the Manager program will be used in future computer competitions.

The next World Computer Bridge Championships will be in Toronto at the ACBL Summer Nationals, July 2001.

Contact: Mike Whittaker, Blue Chip Bridge Ltd.
e-mail : mike@bluechipbridge.co.uk
website : <http://www.bluechipbridge.co.uk>

The WBF is to reapply to FISU (Federation of University Sports) to recognize bridge worldwide as a university sport and to organize an official University World Championship in Bruges (Belgium) in 2002.

The Belgian University Sport Federation officially recognised bridge as a sport on 28th August during the Maastricht Olympiad. This means bridge will be added to the list of sports at all Belgian Universities, bridge events will be included in sports calendars, bridge lessons can be given in university buildings etc.

At the WBF Congress José Damiani, the WBF President, agreed to provide, on request, a list of those countries where bridge has been accepted by its National Olympic Committee as a sport. Enquirers should contact Christine Francin at: cfrancin@jdr.fr

* *Josephine Morcos*, who was at the first World Bridge Olympiad in 1960 as a member of the winning United Arab Republic Ladies team, was also in Maastricht forty years later as a member of the Egyptian Womens team. Morcos learned bridge in 1943. Her partner in 1960 was Aida Choucry, and in 2000 was Sophie Sarwat, a former champion swimmer. Bridge is a family affair for Morcos. Both her daughters and their husbands play and she says "I hope that my grandchildren will play."

Nico Tromp, Press Officer for the Maastricht Olympiad requests IBPA members to send clippings about the Olympiad to him at:

Waardenburg 57, 2181 LP Hillegom
The Netherlands
E-mail: nitromp@wo1mail.nl

The Dutch Bridge Federation are making a book about the Olympiad that must give a new status to bridge, but will also be impressive to (potential) sponsors.

Please send me by e-mail or by post the articles that you have written for and have been published by your magazines, daily newspapers etc. about the Olympiad. I'm also interested in articles about the winners: Italian Open, USA Women, USA Seniors, Austria Students and the E-bridge for the Mixed.

You can charge me if you make any costs in collecting and/or sending the articles by post.

The OkBridge Internet World Championship Final Four

by Henry
After months of computer competition, China, Romania and two American teams are the final four in the 2000 Internet World Bridge Championship, which once again is being sponsored by OKbridge. Romania, the European champion leads China, the Asian victor, by 26 IMPs at the halfway mark in their 48-board semifinal. The Simson team, winner in the first IWBC in Boston a year ago, is trailing the Florida Kees by 16 IMPs after 12 boards.

The victors will travel to Birmingham, Alabama, USA, to play the 48-board final starting at 10 a.m. on November 16, the opening day of the American Contract Bridge League Fall Championships in that city. The losers will battle for the bronze medal from their homes prior to the final. All matches leading up to the final have been played with the competitors sitting in front of their computers in their own homes. Not one deck of cards has been in play. The final will be played on computers provided by OKbridge in Birmingham and will be viewed simultaneously over the internet worldwide.

The defending champions, who include three of the most successful internationalists in the history of bridge, defeated Team Bundy, captained by Peggy Kaplan, in the quarterfinals. The final margin was 108 IMPs, but the match was reasonably close during the first half. Simson stung Team Bundy, 98-5, during the second half.

Paul Soloway was a member of the American team that finally unseated the Italian Blue Team in the 1976 Bermuda Bowl in Monte Carlo. He also won Bermuda Bowls in 1977 and 1979. He also has several runner-up medals to his credit in world competition. Eric Rodwell and Jeff Meckstroth hit the big time as youngsters in 1981 when they won the Bermuda Bowl. They have a distinction shared by only a select few – they have triumphed in the Bermuda Bowl, the World Team Olympiad and the Open Pairs, the three major championships in World Bridge Federation play. The team captain, Doug Simson, also was captain a year ago when this team won the first IWBC. Rounding out the team are Steve Catlett and James Gleick.

The Florida Kees, captained by J.T. McKee, trounced Argentina, captained by Pablo Lambardi. The Kees pulled ahead by 89 with 16 boards to go, and Argentina withdrew. The Kees

Francis (USA)

are a multi-national team – McKee's teammates are Benito Garozzo, now an American but formerly one of the major stars on the super-successful Italian Blue Team; Joao Campos of Brazil, who has competed at the world level for his country; Raija Reisig, formerly of Finland but now living in the United States with her husband Richard, also a team member; and Lea Dupont.

China had a tough time against Ireland before edging the Irish captained by Tom Hanlon, 120-114. Playing for China are Wanfeng Mou, captain; Y.N. Han, Ji Jun, Li Zhang and Sam Wan.

The Romanians looked very strong when they eliminated Russia, the team that finished second to the United States a year ago. The Romanians continued to look good in their quarterfinal match against Sweden, winning 140-75. Playing for Romania are P. Catalin, captain; Dorin Petre Musat, Dorin Chergulescu and Marian Radulescu.

The 140-75 score makes it appear that Romania had an easy time with Sweden – not true!

With nine boards to go, Romania led by only 5 IMPs. But then the roof caved in on the Swedes – the Romanians gained swing after swing. This was one of the deals:

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W vul.

Board 6	A 5		
Dealer: East	10 8 6 2		
E/w Game	10 5 4		
	Q 10 9 2		
	Q 7 3		K J 4
	Q		K 9 7 3
	A K Q 9 2		J 8 7
	K J 8 3		7 5 4
		10 9 8 6 2	
		A J 5 4	
		6 3	
		A 6	

West	North	East	South
<i>Larsson</i>	<i>Feber</i>	<i>Putzen</i>	<i>Catalin</i>
		Pass	Pass
1	Pass	1	1 !
1NT	Pass	2	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Feber led the heart deuce, and Catalin put in the jack – he couldn't know declarer had the singleton queen. Larsson, the declarer, won and crossed to dummy with a diamond so he could attack clubs. Catalin rose with the ace and led a second club. When Larsson finessed the jack, Feber took the queen and continued with the club 10. He still had the spade ace as an entry, so Larsson had to concede defeat, losing three clubs, a spade and a heart.

Larsson would have been much better placed if he had risen with the club king and knocked out the ace of spades. Since North could

take only one club trick and since only one heart trick was available, Larsson would have scored up his game.

The Swedes also arrived in 3NT at the other table. Bjorn Wenneberg attacked clubs immediately, leading the 9. Lief Putzen, South, took his ace and continued the suit. Donn Ghergulescu, the declarer, rose with the king and immediately went after spades. When Wenneberg won his ace he switched to hearts. One heart trick was all declarer needed – he scored up his game and 12 IMPs with five diamonds, two spades, one club and one heart.

IBPA Column Service

These hands may be used without credit to either the author or IBPA. The author is Barry Rigal.

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Dlr: East Q 7 5
 Vul: E/W A J 8 4
 J 8 4
 K 4 3

A	J 10 3
9 7 6	Q 10 5 2
K 9 6	Q 10 5 3 2
Q J 10 9 6 2	7
	K 9 8 6 4 2
	K 3
	A 7
	A 8 5

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1
2	Dbl	Pass	2
Pass	3	Pass	4
All Pass			

When South opens, West will make a simple overcall -- being unsuitable for a jump overcall -- and North has a tricky bid at his first turn. He wants to show a decent raise in spades, but he may not have the tools available to do so. One possibility is the cue-bid (which the fancy use to show a high-card raise in partner's suit) but the negative double allows him to get hearts into the picture and show the invitational values.

On the lead of the Q South knows that there is a fair chance that West has six clubs, and that a ruff in clubs is threatening. If he wins the A to lead spades, his K will get ruffed away -- a nasty fate. So he must win the K at trick one, and now he wants to tackle trumps. But who if anyone will have the singleton spade? Surely West. To guard against his having the singleton A, win the first trick in dummy, cross to hand with the K, not the A, and lead a spade, and West's A beats empty air. He can give his partner one club ruff, but it allows you to ditch your loser.

(If you cross to hand with the A at trick two, West gives his partner TWO ruffs -- using the K as the entry for the second ruff. It would be a pity to have fallen at the final hurdle, wouldn't it?)

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Dlr: East 9 8 3
 Vul: N/S A 8 7 6 3
 K
 A 9 8 6

6 5	A Q J 10
J 9	Q 10 5 4
10 9 8 7 4 3	Q J 2
Q 5 3	7 4
	K 7 4 2
	K 2
	A 6 5
	K J 10 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Martens</i>	<i>Zia</i>	<i>Szymanowski</i>	<i>Forrester</i>
		1	Pass
1	Pass	1	Dbl
2	2	Pass	2
Pass	3	Pass	3
Pass	3	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

This board decided the 1998 Cap Gemini; Forrester needed to make 3NT in the final match of the event to win the title. After the initial artificiality of the first two bids by the Poles, the whole auction was natural, if a little long-winded. Before you see how the play went, imagine that declarer will emerge with nine tricks. Which card do you think will take the game going trick?

West led the ten of diamonds to the king and East unblocked the queen. Forrester naturally misguessed the clubs, cashing the ace and playing one to the jack and queen. He ducked the low diamond continuation, throwing a heart from dummy, and that left East on play. East made the natural looking play of the queen of spades (he has to switch to a heart) and Forrester put up the king. He then cashed the ace of diamonds, discarding another heart, and took his winning clubs. Szymanowski had to keep three hearts so was forced down to two spades. Forrester was able to exit with a spade, win the heart return with the ace and exit with a further spade. He took the penultimate trick with the king of hearts and trick thirteen, the decisive one of the event, which ensured he and Mahmood would win the tournament, with the carefully preserved two of spades.

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In the qualifying event of the 1999 Forbo, the Dutch Senior team faced China, winners of the four-way international event. The Seniors were not impressed, and scored an impressive victory, whitewashing their opponents. Loek Verhees handled this 3NT carefully to score a game swing:

Dlr: South	K Q 8 5 2		
Vul: Both	J 4		
	A 3		
	Q 9 6 4		

10 9 7 6 3		10 3	
Q 9 8 6 5		Q J 8 4 2	
K 10		K J 10 8 7 3	
A			
	A J 4		
	A K 7 2		
	9 7 6 5		
	5 2		

West	North	East	South
			1
Pass	1	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Verhees got a friendly heart lead, won by the jack in dummy as East followed with a small card, leaving West in doubt as to who had the ten of hearts. It now looks as if declarer has nine tricks, but when East showed out on the first round of spades, Verhees needed an endplay against West to succeed. He continued with a small club, to strip West of his minor suit exit cards.

West took his ace of clubs and helped considerably by switching to the king of diamonds, ducked, and another diamond - a second heart would have worked out far better. Verhees won the ace of diamonds on the second round, crossed to the ace of spades and led a spade towards the dummy, forcing West to split his ten-nine. Three rounds of hearts followed, and West was endplayed: he could cash one more heart, but then had to lead a spade into the tenace of the king-eight in dummy for nine tricks to declarer.

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From the 1999 Vanderbilt comes an excellent defense by Lorenzo Lauria -- on a hand where declarer might have found a resource.

Dlr: South	A 9 8 7		
Vul: Both	A 6		
	A 7 4		
	J 10 8 3		
	J 10 6 4		K 5
	J 8 7 5 2		Q 10 3
	9 6 2		K 8 5 3
	5 2		A 6 4
		Q 3 2	
		K 9 4	
		Q J 10	
		K Q 9 7	

West	North	East	South
			1
Pass	1	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Versace led a heart to his partner's queen, and declarer ducked; he won the heart continuation and drove out the ace of clubs. A heart came back, and declarer won his king and cashed two clubs. On the third round of clubs, West threw a diamond.

When South led the queen of diamonds from hand Lauria made the key play when he ducked smoothly, and South was seduced into repeating the diamond finesse, leading the jack from hand. Lauria won and returned a diamond, and when he won the king of spades, he could cash the 13th diamond for down one.

South was left kicking himself for not realizing that if Versace had the king of diamonds, he would have covered, if not the first then almost certainly the second, round of the suit. When West plays low on the second diamond, the winning line for declarer is to rise with the ace of diamonds, cash the last club, and exit with a diamond. This endplays East, who can cash his diamond winners but has to lead a spade away from his king at trick 12 to concede the ninth trick.

Minutes of the IBPA Annual General Meeting in Maastricht, 6th September, 2000

IBPA Members present (39): **C. Andersson (Swe); D. Berkowitz (USA); L. Cohen (USA); R. Cohen (USA); J. van Cleeff (Net); C. Diment (Australia); S. Dowling (Ire); K. Downes (Ire); E. Ducheyne (Net); H. Francis (USA); A. Frennelius (Swe); P. Gerontopoulos (Gre); C. Grosfils (Bel); Mrs. A. Gudge (Eng); H. Guthwert (Fin); M. Hiron (UK/Spain); J. Jacobs (Net); P. Jannersten (Swe); P. Jourdain (Wales); A. Maas (Net); J-P. Meyer (Fra); A. Montwill (Ire); D. Muller (Eng); R. Nicholson (UK); K. Nobel (Net); M. van der Pas (Net); N. Rand (Isr); M. Rebattu (Net); B. Rigal (USA); T. Schipperheyn (Net); E. Senn (Net); J. Serras (Bel); S. Staveley (Scot); R. Tacchi (Fra); L. Trent (USA); A. Truscott (USA); B. Vriend (Net); J. Wignall (NZ); A. Wildavsky (USA)**

1. The President, Henry Francis, welcomed members. The Agenda was approved. There were apologies from Maureen Dennison, David Birman, and Zvi Bentovim. There was a quorum. The President acted as Chairman.

2. Homage was paid to deceased member Eric Bowtell of England. (After the meeting it was reported that George Peche of Ireland had also died.) Respect had been paid in Bermuda to Jan Wohlin and Dick Cummings.

3. The Minutes of the AGM in Bermuda, published in Bulletin 422, were approved.

4. Officers' Reports:

(a) President Francis began with a tribute to Evelyn Senn who had given dedicated service to IBPA for many years, first as BOLS representative, then later as Treasurer and Secretary. She manned the IBPA Desk at World and European Championships, and was the reason why IBPA had functioned so well in recent years.

The Editor had completed the content of the 2000 Handbook but IBPA still sought a pagemaker and printer. Members would then receive the new Handbook.

The website is functioning smoothly. Per Jannersten was thanked for the work he had put into this project.

The Executive had approved an increase in compensation for the Editor of the IBPA Bulletin, Patrick Jourdain, for his work.

The situation regarding sponsors for Awards was looking good. Though Kathie Weisender had discontinued her sponsorship of the Defence Award, this had been taken over by George Jacobs of the USA, and named after his company, Carey Limousine. Levendaal, represented by Onno Eskes, had decided to switch from the Junior Award to the Best Played Hand, and OkBridge, represented by Matthew Clegg, would take over the Junior Award.

The WBF had promised their annual contribution of \$1000, to be received shortly, and they were thanked for this, and for the excellent facilities in the Maastricht Press Room.

(b) Executive Vice-President, Jean-Paul Meyer, and Organisational Vice-President, Per Jannersten, had nothing to report.

(c) Secretary, Evelyn Senn, reported that her poor health had prevented her attending in Malta and Bermuda. She was grateful to Maureen Dennison for fulfilling her duties. She wished her every success in the future.

(e) As Clippings Secretary, Evelyn Senn reported that since 1998 for clippings competitions commissioned by Mr. Damiani, clippings had been sent to his office. There was a Generali Clippings Competition for Malta, with the draw made at the AGM in Bermuda. All five of the \$100 prizes had now been paid out, and IBPA had received a further \$500. There was no clippings competition for Bermuda, and, so far, none requested for Maastricht.

(f) Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Christer Andersson explained why there was a deficit shown of \$4200 in 1999: expenditure was close to budget, but income was lower: only one of the four Award sponsors had paid by the end of 1999, though two of these had been received in January, to appear in the year 2000, some advertising dues for 1999 had also now been received, the WBF grant for 1999 was expected shortly; there had been a slight drop in members, but a bigger drop in receipts in the year as so many had paid 1999 dues in advance in 1998. Bermuda receipts and expenses would be shown in the next accounts, though they had been budgeted for 1999.

The Treasurer then proposed the subscription for the year 2001. It had last been raised four years ago. He proposed a rise from 36 to 40 pounds. Mr. Guthwert asked whether this was enough. He also suggested that the number of sponsored members could now be reduced. The Membership Secretary reported there were currently 17, to be reviewed by our Sponsored Members Secretary, Irena Chodorowska.

The Treasurer's proposition was then unanimously approved. The Auditor's Report and the Treasurer's Report were approved. The Budget for 2001 was approved.

5. Appointees' Reports:

(a) The Membership Secretary, Stuart Staveley, reported a slight decline in membership over the last two years, back to the figures of 1994/5. The figure of 465 did not include the nine new members who had already joined in Maastricht. The facility of paying by credit card was clearly appreciated and was already used by two-thirds of the membership. The cost to IBPA of this service was, in a full year, 600 pounds. A surprisingly large number of members forgot to include the expiry date, and incurred extra work and expense for IBPA in finding it out, as it was needed to process the payment.

His report gave the 22 new members enrolled since Bermuda, and a further 7 lapsed members had rejoined. Names of those joining in

Maastricht were read out, and Linda Trent, the one present was welcomed.

At this point the reports were interrupted for the Awards (see last Bulletin and later). Afterwards..

(b) The Bulletin Editor, Patrick Jourdain, reported there had been a monthly Bulletin both in print (and on Internet, thanks to Per Jannersten) with the Bermuda special being the February Bulletin. However, the September Bulletin was going out today and there would be an extra Maastricht Special in mid-September. The Editor thanked all members who had contributed to the Bulletin during the year, and reminded all contributors to give the full details of deals reported.

(c) The WBF/EBL Liaison Officer, Panos Gerontopoulos, had nothing to report. There had been no problems in 1999.

6. The IBPA Awards for 2000 were made:

The Personality of the Year Award was presented to Anna Gudge by the President, Henry Francis.

The IBPA Best Played Hand of the year Award was presented to Vincent Ramondt (Net) and journalist Jos Jacobs (Net) by Jean-Paul Meyer.

The Romex Award for Best Auction was presented to Larry Cohen & David Berkowitz by Henry Francis on behalf of George Rosenkranz.

The Carey Limousine Award for Best Defence was presented by George Jacobs, Vice President of Carey International Limousine. The winners (Roger & Terje Lie) and journalist (Anders Brunzell) were not present, and Per Jannersten received the award on their behalf.

The Levendaal Award for a Junior was presented by Patrick Jourdain to Michael Krassnosselski, partner of Marina Kelina, who was the winner. The journalist, Martin Schaltz would receive his prize later.

Honor Member:

The President then named as Honor Member, Elly Ducheyne of the Netherlands, who had served IBPA so well as Press Room Manager at many championships.

7. Election of Officers:

The slate in the Bulletin was approved en bloc:

President: Henry Francis (USA)

Exec V-President: Jean-Paul Meyer (Fra)

Organisational V-Pres: Per Jannersten (Swe)

Treasurer: Christer Andersson (Swe)

Secretary: Maureen Dennison (Eng)

Chairman: Alan Truscott (USA)

Honorary Counsel: Bill Pencharz (Eng)

8. Election of three three-year terms on the Executive. The three nominated in the Bulletin were unanimously approved: Dilip Gidwani (Ghana); Peter Lund (Denmark); Patrick Jourdain (Wales).

9. Election to two-year vacancy arising due to the election of Maureen Dennison as Secretary. The nominating Committee proposed Nissan Rand (Israel). As this vacancy had only arisen at this meeting it was thrown open for further nominations from the floor, and Mrs. Linda Trent proposed Fred Gitelman of Canada. After a secret ballot the teller, Christer Andersson, announced that Mr. Gitelman had been elected.

10. Any other competent business

Nissan Rand enquired whether there was to be an IBPA Pairs. The President said the point had been discussed by the Executive but it had been thought there was insufficient demand. Following further comment, Mr. Rand offered to organize the event.

The Meeting adjourned at 11.15 a.m.

The AGM was followed by a Press Conference at 11.45 a.m. and then the Press Lunch at 1 p.m. The lunch was hosted by the Dutch Bridge Federation with some 60 persons present. A presentation of a pair of crystal candelabra was made to Evelyn Senn in gratitude for her long service to IBPA.

* *Hervé Pacault reports*

The Biarritz Festival attracted around a thousand competitors this year. The Pairs was won by Alain Levy & Zia Mahmood (Fra-USA) and the teams by a multinational squad led by Schiesser of Germany.

There were two deals in which the defence failed to find the way to beat a squeeze made by a top French declarer:

	A Q 10 8		
	K 9 4		
	A J 7 3		
	10 8		
7 6 4 2		9 3	
Q		10 7 6 5 2	
K Q 10 8 4		6 2	
A 5 4		Q J 7 6	
	K J 5		
	A J 8 3		
	9 5		
	K 9 3 2		

South	West	North	East
<i>Lesguillier</i>	<i>Stoppa</i>	<i>Mme Lesguillier Stretz</i>	
1	1	1	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

West led K against South's 3NT. How do you think Régis Lesguillier made 11 tricks?

Lesguillier ducked the lead and Jean-Louis Stoppa switched to a spade. South won this in hand and led a heart to the king, felling West's queen.

South cashed four spades, throwing a club from hand, and then, taking the heart finesse, ran the hearts, squeezing West. When West kept three diamonds, he had to bare his A. South threw a diamond from the dummy, ducked a club, and later took the diamond finesse.

A diamond continuation at trick two would have broken the squeeze.

	9		
	A K J 5 4		
	10 4		
	10 9 7 6 5		
Q		10 5 4 3 2	
Q 10 9 7 6 3		8	
7 3		K J 9 6 5 2	
Q J 8 3		K	
	A K J 8 7 6		
	2		
	A Q 8		
	A 4 2		

South	West	North	East
<i>Chemla</i>	<i>Mme Baixas Lawrence</i>		<i>Faye</i>
1	Pass	2	Pass
3	Pass	3	Dble
3	Pass	4	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

West led 7. How did Paul Chemla make 6NT ?

The 9 was taken by the queen, and Chemla laid down A. When the queen fell, things looked up. He continued with a low spade to East's ten, and East returned K. South took A, A, and his remaining spades. This squeezed West in hearts and clubs. When West threw a heart, Chemla took the finesse to bring in the suit.

East, when in with 10, should have played a heart, cutting communications for declarer.

OPEN PAIRS Casino de Biarritz

1. A.Lévy – Z.Mahmood (France-USA)
2. Libbrecht – Thuillez (France)
3. Saporta – Zimmermann (Suisse)

MIXED PAIRS

1. D. Fischer – Schiesser (Austria-Ger)
2. Veronique Bessis - Paul Chemla (France)
3. Mme Resusta – Luis Lantaron (Spain)

TEAMS AGF – Lavazza

1. MM Schiesser, Knap, Martens, Rohowsky, De Miguel (Germany, Spain, Poland)
2. Markowicz, Jezioro, Klukowski, Zaremba (Pol)
3. Counil, Libbrecht, Oursel, Verdier (France)

IMP PAIRS ACCOR

1. Lesniewski – Szymanowski (Pol)
2. Ostrowski – Uszynski (Pol)
3. Mlle Liz Godfrey - Ian Pagan (GB)

INDIVIDUAL Barclays Bank

1. Alain Lévy (Fra)
2. Michel Bessis (Fra)
3. Zia Mahmood (USA)

Dates in 2001 : June 29 to July 11

Entries : hervepacault@wanadoo.fr

Fax : 33 5 56 51 13 84

Calendar	Event	Venue	IBPA Contact
2000			
OCT	30/3 Nov	Angelini Trophy, Lausanne Olympic Museum	WBF
NOV	5/12	Red Sea Festival, Eilat, Israel	Birman 972 3 605 8355
	16-26	ACBL Fall Nationals, Birmingham, Al.	1 901 332 5586; www.acbl.org
DEC	8/10	Milan Festival, Bruzzano	+39 02 653 291
	13/17	Sicily Open, Hotel Costa Verde, Cefalu	+39 91 225 511
	27/30	England Year-End Congress, London	EBU 44 1296 394 414
2001			
JAN	18/21	Cap Gemini Ernst & Young World Invitation, The Hague	Henk van Dalen
MAR	15/25	ACBL Nationals, Kansas City	ACBL
	19/25	European Open & Senior Pairs, Sorrento, Italy	EBL
JUN	16/30	European Teams and Ladies Pairs, Tenerife	EBL
	29/Jul 11	Biarritz Festival	hervepacault@wanadoo.fr
JUL	19/29	ACBL Summer Nationals, Toronto	ACBL
AUG		World Junior Teams, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	WBF
OCT	20/2 nd Nov	Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup, Transnational Teams, Bali	WBF
NOV	18/28	ACBL Fall Nationals, Las Vegas	ACBL
2002			
MAR	7-17	ACBL Spring Nationals, Houston	ACBL
JUL	18/28	ACBL Summer Nationals, Washington	ACBL
AUG	16/31	World Pairs Olympiad, Montreal	WBF
NOV	28/ 8 Dec	ACBL Fall Nationals, Phoenix	ACBL

* The WBF Teaching Program (French Minibrige translated into English) is available from: wbf@ecats.co.uk

* The Opening Ceremony of the Bermuda Bowl in Bali is now Sat 20th October 2001 (one day later). The Closing Banquet remains 2nd Nov. The Lippo Bank World Bridge Championships is in Nusa Duca, Bali, Indonesia from Saturday, 20th October to Friday, 2nd November 2001. Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup, World Zonal Senior Teams. The World Transnational Teams is from Sunday 28th October to 2nd November.

Further details from:
bridgeindonesia.com

* The World Bridge Championships in Montreal are in the Bonaventure Hilton & Queen Elizabeth Hotels from 16th to 31st August, 2002. There are Teams & Pairs events for Open, Women, and Seniors. Further details from the local Chairman Tibo Bertalan:
e-mail: superdentist@toothfairy.com

* The Israeli Bridge Festival is from 8-17th February 2001 in Tel Aviv. It incorporates the Israeli Seniors Congress from 12-15th February. Contact:
www.bridge.co.il ibf@netvision.net.il
or birmand@inter.net.il

* *Ernesto d'Orsi has a new address* also the one to be used for the Brazilian Bridge Federation ("CONFEDERAÇÃO BRASILEIRA DE BRIDGE").
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ernesto.dorsi@interprint.com.br)

* *Irena Chodorowska says:* The next Sicilian Open will be held from 13-17th December at the Costa Verde Hotel, Cefalu, Palermo. A 3-session Open Pairs is on Wednesday evening and on Thursday. The Open Teams of 5 sessions is held Fri-Sun finishing at 1 p.m.
Bookings through: Borzi'Viaggi
Tel: +39 91 225 511 Fax: +39 91 682 0269
Website: www.infcom.it/albor

* *Matt Granovetter reports (see Okbridge Spectator magazine) on Argentina's 13-year-old star, Agustin Madala, of the team that reached the quarterfinal of the OkBridge World championship*

Agustin Madala is Argentina's great bridge hope. Although he is only 13 years old, he already has credentials unmatched by most veteran players. He has placed second in the South American Open Pairs, a nine-session event that brought together all the best players on the continent, including players like Gabriel Chagas of Brazil. In Junior competition, he has won the South American championship pairs three straight years - he won for the first time when he was only 11. He also has several Argentine national championships to his credit.

"I have never yet met a player of his skill at his age," said Pablo Lambardi, the team captain. "He played in last year's Argentina Open Pairs with a partner 70 years his senior! Carlos Cabanne, Argentina's best-known player, was 82 at the time. They came in second.

"Agustin is in high school, and his biggest bridge problem is that his mother won't let him play late on weekdays. He has to wait till she goes to sleep to sneak into OKbridge (shh-secret)."

Here's an example of Agustin, South, in action:

West dealer	3		
	Q 10 7 5		
	A Q 7 2		
	K Q 10 2		
	Q J 9 8 5		A 7 2
	2		A J 9 8
	K J 9 8		6 5 4
	A 7 5		8 6 4
		K 10 6 4	
		K 6 4 3	
		10 3	
		J 9 3	

West	North	East	South
1	Dble	2	3
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

West led Q. East won and continued spades. Agustin, declarer, pitched a club from dummy as he won with the king. He led a heart to the queen and ace, and East, believing he had two more trumps coming, led a club to partner's ace (on which Agustin apparently played the queen).

Agustin ruffed the spade return (it was necessary to ruff rather than pitch a diamond, as you shall see) and crossed to his hand with the J.

He took a finesse to the Q, cashed the ace and ruffed a diamond. He returned to dummy with the K, leaving this position:

	-	
	10 7	
	7	
	-	
J 9		-
--		J 9 8
K		-
--		-
	10	
	K 6	
	-	
	-	

Agustin led the diamond off dummy and East ruffed with the 8 – but Agustin pitched his last spade. East was fixed. Since he had to lead away from his jack-9, his third trump trick disappeared and Agustin had his doubled contract.

END OF IBPA BULLETIN 429 But see notice
for Bulletin 430 below **Olympic Museum
Lausanne – Switzerland**

Under the auspices of the
**International Olympic Committee and
the World Bridge Federation**

From
Monday, 30th October 2000
To
Friday, 3rd November 2000

A BATTLE OF TITANS

Will celebrate at the same time the 75th
anniversary of the birth of the Duplicate
Contract Bridge created by Harold
Vanderbilt
on the 1st November 1925.

Six countries – China, France, Indonesia, Italy, Poland and USA – are invited to participate in this contest.

France and **Poland** are both past winners of the World Bridge Teams Olympiad, **Italy** being the 2000 holder, **USA** the 2000 Bermuda Bowl holder, **China** the first winner of the IOC Grand Prix and **Indonesia** who will be the host of the next 2001 Bermuda Bowl/Venice Cup and World Transnational Open Team.

There will be a round robin of 5 matches of 24 boards, qualifying four teams for a semi-final and a final between the winners, with a play off between the losers.

On Thursday and Friday a **Women's match** will be organized between a **European Team** and a **North American Team**

The Vice President of the I.O.C, Mr. Marc Hodler will present the I.O.C. cups and medals.

The WBF is to stage the IOC Grand Prix every year prior to 2002, when we hope to be present at the Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City as an attraction and hopefully in Turin 2006 as an official discipline.

This event will be **broadcast** on internet from the **Bridge Vision (Bridge Rama)** held in the **Museum auditorium** where spectators are very much welcome, and

you will find all the results, Daily Bulletins, vu-graph and information on:

<http://www.bridge.gr>

<http://www.e-bridgemaster.com>

The **Generali Group**, the Insurer Without Frontiers, one of the most important insurance groups in the world and a long time bridge partner, will be **the sponsor** of this prestigious event.

We will be pleased to welcome you at any time during that week, and especially for the

- Opening Ceremony on Monday 30th October at 18h
 - and Prize Giving Ceremony on Friday 3rd November at 18h30
- at the Olympic Museum.

Do not hesitate to contact us, if you need any further information.

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