

Marlboro Bermuda and Venice Cup
Beijing, China

October 8th - 21st, 1995

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Marlboro Championships Open Tomorrow

Tonight is fun -- the banquet celebrating the opening of the Marlboro World Championships. Tomorrow it gets serious -- the opening matches of both the Marlboro Bermuda Bowl and the Marlboro Venice Cup will get under way at 10 tomorrow morning.

The matches on Vugraph will feature the two defending champions and the host team. The second-round battle between host China and Brazil at 2 p.m. will be on Vugraph. The Netherlands, Bermuda Bowl victors in Santiago, Chile, in 1993, will be shown in the opening match (10 a.m.) against United States I. One of the United States teams won the Venice Cup in 1993, so United States I vs. Germany will be the Vugraph show for the third match (5:30 p.m.).

The matches involving the defending champions both are especially interesting. The Dutch defenders are facing perhaps the strongest opponent in their bracket in USA I. The team captained by Jimmy Cayne came through a most difficult trials in Las Vegas to become America's No. 1 team. And the match between USA I and Germany is a replay of the 1993 Venice Cup final -- Germany was the silver medalist in that event.

The 16 teams in each event have been divided into two groups. Each group will play a double round-robin, with the top four teams in each group qualifying for the quarter-finals. Both events will be run as knockouts starting with the quarter-finals.

President Damiani Declares Games Open

We have been working for many months on the preparation of this Marlboro World Bridge Championship, and I am glad to say that international cooperation in this particular case is not just words; it has become a reality which means better knowledge and understanding. We are delighted to be here in China and we are sure that you, the players, have already found the best conditions for play.

For that, our first thanks go to the Chinese Bridge Association, its Honorary Members, its President Mr. Rong Gaotong and all members of the organizing Committee.

But nothing would have been possible without the enormous contribution made by Philip Morris Asia, represented here tonight by Joseph Tcheng, the Area Director.

Thanks to both of them and the World Bridge Federation team we are able to provide the best technology for your needs, pleasure and comfort.

I have no doubt that this Marlboro Bermuda Bowl and Marlboro Venice Cup will be remembered by all of you,

winner or not, as a great and memorable tournament.

I am sure that you will make new friends in this part of the world and that Bridge for Peace will once more be a true and proven motto even during the fair competition that you are going to participate in.

And now I have pleasure in declaring the 1995 Marlboro World Bridge Championships open.

Cooperation Is A Way Of Life

International cooperation is not just words -- it's a way of life. That statement, made by World Bridge Federation President Jose Damiani at yesterday's press conference, just about sums up the way bridge operates at the international level.

And there's no question about it -- the WBF is making international cooperation a major part of its agenda. We have official recognition as a sport from the International Olympic Committee, and we're working toward an agreement with UNESCO, said Damiani. The WBF is helping with a major teaching program going on in Chinese schools. We are working to bring teaching programs into other nations as well. And we are making major moves internationally in Junior bridge.

The first speaker was Rong Gaotong, president of the China Bridge Association and of the organizing committee for these Championships. We have here a grand gathering of bridge people. This will do much to enhance unity and friendship. And China is showing that it is capable of handling a world championship for a sport of intelligence.

The staging of the Marlboro World Bridge Championships here in Beijing is a cause for celebration, said Joseph Tchong, area director for Philip Morris Asia Inc., sponsor of this tournament. It signifies not only the increasing level of sophistication --and expertise --of players in China, but also the extent to which bridge has become a truly international competitive pursuit.

The selection of Beijing as the venue for the 1995 tournament is a considerable honor, and we at Philip Morris are proud to be providing our support as sponsor.

One of the questions directed to the panel concerned the numbers of people playing bridge in China and elsewhere. China has only about 50,000 registered players, but far more than a million Chinese play bridge. Damiani added that the best guess is that 40 million people play bridge world-wide, but only about 700,000 are registered in bridge organizations. Maybe as many as one and a half million play tournament bridge, said Damiani, but you don't have to be a member to play in most countries.

Coverage of the Marlboro Championships will be carried throughout China by television.

Damiani listed reasons why bridge is recognized by the IOC as a sport. The organization of bridge is comparable to the organization in all other sports, he said. And bridge has the same sportive attitude. And although bridge is a mind sport, you have to be in exceptional physical shape to play effectively in a world championship.

Best Declarer Play

This is the hand which won the bulletin prize for best declarer play at the European Championships in Vilamoura. It was originally reported by Patrick Jourdain and comes from the Poland v Lebanon match.

Board 1. Love All. Dealer North.

	S 97432	
	H 87	
	D A973	
	C 62	
S Q		S AJT6
H A63		H JT94
D QJ8642		D K5
C A73		C QT4
	S K85	
	H KQ52	
	D T	
	C KJ985	

At both tables, East played 3NT after South had opened with a natural club bid. The Lebanese South led a club and Zmudzinski won in hand and played the DK. North won and the clubs were cleared and when the diamonds did not break declarer was a trick short. The club lead, which gave a trick, had proved effective.

At the other table, Lasocki led the HK. This had the effect of removing an entry from dummy, making establishing the diamonds a problem. Pierre Chidiac won, led a diamond to the king and a second diamond. South threw a heart and North won to lead a club for the ten and jack. Chidiac allowed the CJ to hold so Lasocki exited with queen and another heart. This removed declarer's entry to his potential spade tricks.

Chidiac cashed his heart trick, South pitching a club and dummy a diamond. Now declarer led a low spade from hand. If South won, he would have to lead a black card to give declarer nine tricks so, correctly, Lasocki let dummy's queen win.

The lead was now with dummy and declarer could afford to lose only one more trick. Chidiac cashed the DJ and what could Lasocki throw? If a club, declarer exits with ace and another club and he must lead into the spade tenace. So Lasocki tried a spade. After all, East appeared to have no entry. But now Chidiac cashed CA and exited with a diamond to North who had nothing left to return but spades and the ace dropped South's king!

The British Premier League

Finally, in 1995, Great Britain joined the 20th century by following many other European countries in introducing a national league. The intention had been to run one eight-team league in the first year but, such was

the interest, that two divisions of eight teams each were formed and almost all the top players took part.

Each league consisted of seven 48 board matches, scored on the normal WBF VP scale. To overcome geographical problems, the matches were played over three weekends, the first two of two matches each, the last of three matches. As it transpired, the draw worked out rather well. These were the leading positions going into the final weekend:

1. HACKETT (P, J+J Hackett, I.Monachan, A.Forrester,
A.Robson) 73 VPs
2. SOWTER (A.Sowter, D.Kendrick, R.Smolski, S.Ray,
B.Senior, R.Sheehan) 72.5 VPs
3. ROSEN (N.Rosen, P.King, G+S Tredinnick,
G.Calderwood, R.Shek) 70.5 VPs

Then came a gap of 13.5 Vps to three teams tied for fourth place. On the final weekend, the leading three teams all had to meet each other and all had to meet the bottom placed team, CASEY. While one of the teams bunched in fourth place could come through, it was likely that the winners would come from the top three.

In Round 5, HACKETT came from behind to beat ROSEN 16-14 while SOWTER defeated CASEY 21-9 after looking like getting the maximum with one set to go. Round 6 saw ROSEN trail all the way against CASEY but win a big last set to come through 18-12, not really enough.

Meanwhile, SOWTER led HACKETT by 36 at the half but Forrester/Robson had a big third set to pull it back to only five down with a set to play. After the fourth quarter, both Forrester/ Robson and Senior/Sheehan came out smiling, which of course meant that little had changed. SOWTER held on to win by 16-14 which meant they would go into the last day 6.5 VPs clear of HACKETT and 7 VPs clear of ROSEN.

While Senior/Sheehan may have come out of the final set smiling, they were certainly not doing so after this earlier board against Forrester/Robson.

Board 7. Game All. Dealer South.

		S AQ543	
		H T87	
		D 6	
		C AKT8	
	S KJ762		S --
	H QJ9543		H K6
	D T		D QJ942
	C 2		C 976543
		S T98	
		H A2	
		D AK8753	
		C QJ	
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Forrester	Senior	Robson	Sheehan
			1D
3H	3S	5H	Pass

Pass 6C Pass 6S
All Pass

Had North/South chosen to double 5H, they would still be taking tricks today, but it was tough to visualize the actual layout. Sheehan felt that he had a reasonable hand for his opening with some spade tolerance, so made a forcing pass, and now Senior just assumed he was facing heart shortage. Somebody clearly did too much and Senior was three down; 300.

How big a disaster would that be? At the other table, Monachan opened 1NT as South and eventually played 4S after West had passed throughout but East had shown a minor two-suiter. Smolski (West) led the HQ and Monachan won the ace, cashed a club, and played the S10. Smolski covered and Monachan finessed, getting the bad news. Now he tried to come back to hand with a second club but Smolski ruffed and led a heart to Ray's king. Back came another club. If declarer ruffed, West would discard and later make two more trump tricks; if declarer discarded, West would ruff and lead the HJ, again creating a third heart trick. One down meant only 5 IMPs to HACKETT.

Fortunes ebbed and flowed in the final round. HACKETT jumped out to a 20 IMP lead against CASEY while ROSEN led SOWTER by 15, but SOWTER promptly came back to lead by 6 IMPs at the half while HACKETT only added another 2 IMPs to their lead. But HACKETT regained pole position in set three when they extended their lead to 44 while SOWTER lost all the ground gained in the previous set and again trailed by 15 IMPs. If the merry-go-round were to stop now, HACKETT would win the league by 0.5 VP.

First to finish the final set were HACKETT and CASEY. Nicola Smith and Pat Davies had had a good set against Forrester/Robson and CASEY pulled back 11 IMPs, leaving HACKETT with a 19-11 win. SOWTER could afford to drop 5 IMPs and still come out on top, while ROSEN had a chance if they could tack on another 21.

Senior/Sheehan didn't have any particularly bad boards, just none where there seemed any chance to gain and came out feeling gloomy. As it turned out, this was the critical decision. Vulnerable against not you hold: S T53 H AK D A9753 C T93 and hear 1S from partner, only promising four, 3H weak on your right.

King had a co-operative double available, more penalty than takeout, while Senior's was basically takeout. King chose to bid 3NT and found he had only eight tricks opposite "S A9862 H 73 D T C AQ864". Senior doubled and converted Sheehan's 4C response to 4S. With both black suits breaking and the CK onside, that was +620 and 12 crucial IMPs.

SOWTER drew the last set, leaving ROSEN victors by 17-13 VPs. But, more importantly, SOWTER had retaken the lead at just the right moment to win the first British Premier League by 0.5 VP from HACKETT with ROSEN a further 2.5 VPs behind in third. Fourth, after a good final weekend, were LIGGINS(G.Liggins, A.Dyson, S.Lodge, P.Crouch).

Their win means that the SOWTER team will represent

Britain in the European Union Championships in Ostend next April. Meanwhile, the second season of the Premier League begins in December.

Team Rosters

31st Bermuda Bowl

Group W Z=Zone

Argentina Z3, Pablo Lambardi (pc), Martin Monsegur,
Carlos Lucena, Guillermo Mooney, Ernesto
Muzzio, Marcelo Villegas

Australia Z7, Peter Smith (npc), Hugh Grosvenor, Phil
Gue, John Roberts, Matthew Thomson,
George Kozakos, Paul Marston

France Z1, Jean-Paul Meyer (npc), Paul Chemla,
Michel Perron, Robert Reiplinger,
Philippe Soulet, Michel Lebel,
Philippe Cronier

Indonesia Z6, Yasin Widjadja (npc), Henky Lasut, Eddy
Manoppo, Denny Sakul, Franky Karwur,
S. Panelewen, G. Watulingas

Netherlands Z1, Jaap Trouwborst (npc), Enri Leufkens,
Berry Westra, Jan Westerhof, Piet Jansen,
Anton Maas, Erik Kirchhoff

South Africa Z4, Maurice Joffe (npc), Tim Cope, Henry
Mansell, Chris Convery, Craig Gower, Leon
Bookin, Bernard Donde

USA I Z2, Jimmy Cayne (pc), Chuck Burger, Mark
Lair, Mike Passell, Paul Soloway,
Bobby Goldman

Venezuela Z5, Christian Blohm (npc), Steve Hamaoui,
Claudio Caponi, Paolo Pasquini, Alejandro
Bianchedi, Mario Onorati, Franco Gusso

Group E

Brazil Z3, Paulo Brum de Barros (npc), Christiano
Fonseca, Gabriel Chagas, Roberto de
Mello, Marcelo Branco

Canada Z2, Irving Litvack (npc), Fed Gitelman,
George Mittelman, Eric Kokish, Joey
Silver, Mark Molson, Boris Baran

China Z6, Kaijian Pan (npc), Zhong Fu, Xiaojing
Wang, Rongchang Chen, Zijian Shao, Ji
Hong Hu, Hongjun Xu

Colombia Z5, Giorgio Helmsdorff (npc), Jaime Carrera,

Jorge Andres Barrera, Jorge Barrera,
Anton Cahn-Speyer, J.M. Nunez,
A. Robledo

Egypt Z4, Abdel Aziz El-Shafie (npc), Walid
El-Ahmady, Ashraf Sadek, Samih Khalil,
Hassan Adel Aly, Samir Salib Beshara,
Michel Doche

Italy Z1, Carlo Mosca (npc), Andrea Buratti,
Massimo Lanzarotti, Lorenzo Lauria,
Maurizio Pataccini, Antonio Sementa,
Alfredo Versace

Sweden Z1, Tommy Gullberg (npc), Anders Morath, Sven
Ake Bjerregard, Johan Bennet, Anders
Wirgren, Mats Nilsland, Bjorn Fallenius

USA II Z2, Edgar Kaplan (npc), Nick Nickell, Richard
Freeman, Bob Hamman, Bobby Wolff, Jeff
Meckstroth, Eric Rodwell

10th Venice Cup
Group W

Brazil Z3, Ernesto d'Orsi (npc), Agota Mandelot,
Elisabeth Murtinho, Lia Cintra, Lucia
Gil, Heloisa Nogueira, Sylvia de Mello

Canada Z2, Michael Roche (npc), Gloria Silverman,
Roisin O'Hara, Joan Eaton, Barbara
Clinton, Mary Paul, Katie Thorpe

China Z6, Houzou Tang (npc), Ming Sun, Yi Lan
Zhang, Yi Quian Liu, Hong Li Wang,
Ling Gu, Li Ping Wang

Colombia Z5, G. Helmsdorff (npc), Flor Macias, Clara
Benedetti, Ana de Soto, B. Angel, S.
Barrera, V. Cahn-Speyer

Germany Z1, Klaus Reps (npc), Sabine Zenkel Auken,
Marianne Moegel, Karin Caesar, Beate
Nehmert, Andrea Rauschield, Daniela
von Arnim

Israel Z1, Zvi Ben Tovim (npc), Migri Tzur Albu,
Ruth Porat Levy, Hanita Melech, Nurit
Naveh, Neta Saxon, Ora Dan

South Africa Z4, Di Adrain (npc), Merle Modlin, Petra
Mansell, Ruth Kaplan, Ghita Livingstone,
Bella Axelrod, Ursula Hammerschlag

USA I Z2, Steve Sandborn (npc), Karen McCallum,

Kitty Munson, Rozanne Pollack, Carol
Simon, Sue Picus, Kerri Sandborn

Group E

Australia Z7, Julia Hoffman (npc), Lydia Beech,
Margaret Bourke, Alida Clark, Sue Lusk,
Felicity Beale, Diana Smart

Argentina Z3, Marta Tiscornia (pc), Marta Matienzo,
Matilde Espiasse, Ana Castro, Engelica
Hernandez, Ana Blum

France Z1, Max Coppolani (npc), Veronique Bessis,
Catherine Saul, Sylvie Willard, Benedicte
Cronier, Claude Blouquit, Colette Lise

Great Britain Z1, Tony Priday (npc), Sandra Landy, Sandra
Penfold, E. McGowan, Heather Dhondy,
Walker Abbey

India Z4, Vinay Desai (npc), Rita Choksi, Kamala
Sattanathan, Jeroo Mango, Marianne
Karmakan, Yvette Singapuri

Japan Z6, Akio Kurokawa (npc), Etsuko Miyaishi,
Kyoko Shimamura, Kazuko Banno, Mizuko
Tan, Shoko Fukuda, Zenko Shimada

USA II Z2 Phillip Alder (npc), Mildred Breed,
Amalya Kearse, Jacqui Mitchell, Jo Morse,
Joyce Lilie, Tobi Deutsch

Venezuela Z5, Fida Hirshaut (pc), Ivy Smith, Alexandra
Pointkowski, M. Pacheco, A. Myakuni,
E. Solar

Beijing Schedule

October 8th, Opening Ceremony 8pm
October 9th - 12th Round Robin 2 x 7 x 20 boards
10am, 2pm, 5:30pm
October 13th 10am 2pm
October 14th - 15th Quarter-finals
October 16th - 17th Semi-finals
October 18th - 20th Finals

Venice Cup ends October 19th
Bermuda Cup ends October 20th
October 20th, Victory Banquet 8:30pm

Each group will take part in a double round robin,
with the top four in each advancing to the KO phase.

USA I	V	Colombia		Japan	V	Australia
Brazil	V	Canada		India	V	Venezuela
South Africa	V	China		France	V	Argentina

Round 3

Germany	V	USA I		Australia	V	Great Britain
Colombia	V	Israel		Japan	V	USA II
South Africa	V	Canada		Venezuela	V	Argentina
China	V	Brazil		France	V	India

Round 4

Canada	V	Germany		Venezuela	V	Great Britain
China	V	Colombia		France	V	Japan
South Africa	V	Israel		Argentina	V	USA II
Brazil	V	USA I		India	V	Australia

Round 5

Germany	V	China		France	V	Great Britain
Colombia	V	Canada		Japan	V	Venezuela
Israel	V	Brazil		USA II	V	India
South Africa	V	USA II		Australia	V	Argentina

Round 6

Brazil	V	Germany		India	V	Great Britain
South Africa	V	Colombia		Argentina	V	Japan
Canada	V	Israel		USA II	V	Venezuela
China	V	USA I		France	V	Australia

Round 7

South Africa	V	Germany		Argentina	V	Great Britain
Brazil	V	Colombia		Japan	V	India
Israel	V	China		USA II	V	France
USA I	V	Canada		Australia	V	Venezuela
