Marlboro Bermuda and Venice Cup Beijing, China

October 8th - 21st, 1995

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1995 Marlboro Bermuda Bowl Final: USA II 338 295 Canada Boards 16 32 80 1st Half 48 64 Canada 25 23 29 36 9 USA II 34 31 35 14 172 58 Boards 96 112 128 144 160 Result Canada 35 22 42 53 22 295 USA II 34 56 34 12 39 338

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

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

1995	1995 Marlboro Venice Cup		
Fina	l:	USA I	248
		Germany	312
32	48	64	1st Half
35	36	18	118
12	65	18	119
96	112	128	Final
36	28	9	248
45	55	70	312
	32 35 12 96 36	Final: 32 48 35 36 12 65 96 112 36 28	Final: USA I Germany 32 48 64 35 36 18 12 65 18 96 112 128 36 28 9

Germany Z1, Klaus Reps (npc), Sabine Zenkel Auken,

Marianne Moegel, Karin Caesar, Beate Nehmert,

Andrea Rauschield, Daniela von Arnim

USA I Z2, Steve Sandborn (npc), Karen McCallum,
Kitty Munson, Rozanne Pollack, Carol
Simon, Sue Picus, Kerri Sandborn

World Hall of Fame

A World Hall of Fame is in the future for the World Bridge Federation. The first nominee for membership is Edgar Kaplan of New York City, captain of the victorious American team here in the Marlboro Bermuda Bowl.

Kaplan is very special in the world of bridge. In addition to being a victorious captain, he also is a

major journalist as editor of The Bridge World, a worldclass player, an outstanding administrative bridge official, the world's outstanding authority on the laws of the game, and, as all who watched on Vugraph will agree, an outstanding commentator.

LET A THOUSAND FLOWERS BLOOM

By Ton Kooijman, Chief of Tournament Operations

We started the preparations for this championship a couple of years ago. In Chile I spent several hours with the Chinese delegation, answering questions about the organization. The only worry I had then was the communications during this championship, my Chinese being worse than their English, and I expressed my fear. I also added "interpreters' to my 'equipment list'.

Arriving in Beijing two weeks ago I got not just interpreters, they were also very pretty ladies and soon appeared to be the 'pars pro toto' for the championships as a whole. Once everything was explained and everybody got their instructions, everybody knew what to do and every request was fulfilled, without exception --and always with an understanding smile. It was great to be among this group of workers.

I want to express my greatest admiration for the dedication shown by the recorders, who started practicing months ago and who made this the first Bermuda Bowl/Venice Cup with 32 teams where all the hands were recorded, giving a wealth of information for everyone interested.

The same dedication was shown by the caddies who had to move more than 6000 boards, carrying only a couple at one time. I liked the results boards working with the same dedication, and not only looking very pretty, but also performing very efficiently: up to date within half an hour.

The main office did a great job, providing all the information, producing at least 20.000 copies, and preparing the playing rooms up to the smallest details twice each day.

Don't let me forget to mention the duplication room, where the only struggle they had was to deal with was the second club ace hidden in a brand new deck of cards, which occurred several times.

The Vugraph show was wonderful again, thanks of course to the creator, but also to the high standard technical equipment provided by the host, which also made working in the Press Room and Daily Bulletin rooms a real joy, the more so because both were headed by the most experienced people we have to offer. The staff working at the desks --lineup, scoring and systems --completed

a first-rank crew.

I also would like to thank the tournament directors in this world championship, with whom we cooperated in the best possible way, they being alert towards our operations in cases where we needed it most.

Using the dedication and experience of all the people the Chinese Bridge Association had working in this event, the future of bridge in China will be great. Let many thousands of bridge players grow up as a result of their efforts.

The Marlboro Cup

The Marlboro Cup, donated by Philip Morris, to be given to the bridge federation that has shown the most improvement, was given to the China Bridge Association.

The Chinese have made immense strides in bridge over recent years -- it wasn't too long ago that bridge wasn't even played in China. Contrast that with today.

The Chinese women's team, after qualifying tops in their group in the round-robin, devastated Venezuela in their quarterfinal match before being eliminated in the semi-finals in a close match. The Chinese open team was strong in the qualifying, finishing third in their group. Then they made a fine showing in the quarterfinals, losing by only 3 IMPs to France.

Yes, it is definitely true -- China now ranks among the world powers in bridge.

William Webb, president of Philip Morris International, was honored with the Order of Merit for the fine partnership he has set up between his company and the WBF.

Order of Merit

Five persons were honored with the Silver Merit of Order by the World Bridge Federation in recognition of their support of bridge and their activity in the game.

Those so recognized are Wan Li, honorary president of the Chinese Bridge Association; Ding Guangen, senior member of the Politburo; Li Tieying, state councillor; Li Lanqin, Vice Prime Minister, and Wu Shaozu, minister in charge of the State Physical Culture and Sports Commission, and president of the Chinese Olympic Commission.

The Marlboro World Bridge Championships are now over.

Even though I was very confident of the international cooperation with the team who manage this organization,

I am more than touched by the compliments which came from you, the players themselves, as well as from the press and officials.

We have made new friends here while we have had one of the greatest events ever held. This is due to our mutual understanding, even though we have had language problems from time to time. But as Mr Li Lanqin, the Vice Prime Minister, said, Bridge is the only universal language, together with music.

All this means that I am very happy to thank first Mr. Wu Shaozu, Minister of Sports, for all his support and the Mayor of Beijing, Mr. Li Qiyan. Then the Chinese Bridge Association, its President Mr. Rong Gaotang and all the organizing team in particular Mr. Wan Siqan, Mr. Yi Hougao, Mrs. Chen Zelan, Mr. Fan Guangshung, Mr. Dai Weiyong, Mr. An Yong Bo, Mrs. Zhao Huizi, and Mrs. Yuan Bin.

On our side, our thanks go to Ton Kooijman, the Tournament Manager; to Bill Schoder, Chief Tournament Director and his team - Max Bavin, Richard Grenside and Qi Zhou; to Henry, Francis and Brian Senior, co-editors of the Daily News, George Panopoulos, Layout Editor, Chyah Burghard, Computer Edition Layout Editor; to Gianni Baldi and Gianni Bertotto in the Vugraph; to Ron Anderson, Barry Rigal, Patrick Huang and Zhe Hong Guo for the commentary; to Chris Diment and Beverly Kraft on the Systems Desk; to Simon Wiersema for the duplication; to Patrick Chalard and Frederic Torrin for the scoring video and to Patrick Jourdain and Evelyn Senn of the IBPA. A special word for the Press Room, managed by Anna Gudge with Mark Newton supervising all the equipment.

For the first time in the history of bridge, some matches have been broadcast live. For that too we are very grateful to the Chinese Bridge Association and the CCTV.

But nothing would have been possible without the support of Philip Morris Asia who sponsored the Marlboro Bermuda Bowl and the Marlboro Venice Cup.

The World Bridge Federation would also like to record its gratitude to Mr William Webb, the President of Philip Morris International and to Mr Joseph Tcheng, the Asia Director.

Technology and know-how, associated with goodwill and superb sponsorship, are the ingredients of the success we have been able to establish here. That is the reason why we intend to return to China very soon. Not only on the occasion of the Worldwide Bridge Contest, where we want to find a particular place for the champions, but also for the last step of an International Champions Circuit or for the Inter-Continental Cup, all new events which we want to build for the benefit of you, the players, who deserve our thanks for your perfect participation and our congratulations for the winners and medalists

See you next year in Rhodes, Greece, for the Olympiads, with another innovation: a Transnational World Mixed Teams.

Have a safe trip home.
