

Marlboro Bermuda and Venice Cup

Beijing, China

October 8th - 21st, 1995

Issue 2, Monday October 9th, 1995

Editor: Henry Francis and Brian Senior

A Remarkable

We have attended many opening ceremonies since we began covering world championships in 1973, but never have we seen anything that compares with last night at the Great Hall of the People. Eighty tables, 900 people, a multi-multi-course meal of all kinds of delicacies, great sociability, a fine band -- everything was special.

The highlight, of course, was the opening of the 32nd Marlboro Bermuda Bowl and the 10th Marlboro Venice Cup by Jose Damiani, president of the World Bridge Federation. Damiani greeted the crowd with the Chinese word for How are you? and he closed with the word for Thank you. The contents of his speech appeared in Daily Bulletin #1. After declaring the Games open, Damiani joined Rong Gaotang, president of the Chinese Bridge Association, in displaying the WBF flag.

After Yi Hougao, chairman of the organizing committee, introduced the head table, Rong Gaotang extended a warm welcome to the competitors and visitors. Bridge is flourishing in China despite its short history here, said Rong. Hosting these Championships will promote and help develop bridge in China.

Yuan Weimin, vice minister of health and physical training and vice president of the Chinese Olympic Committee, pointed out that bridge in China is a sport, just like all other sports. It s a game of elegance, intelligence and education, he said.

Zhang Baifa, vice executive mayor of Beijing, delivered the greetings of the mayor of Beijing as well as the six million citizens of the city. He pointed out that the past month has been a major one for Beijing -- the city has been host to the women of the world, the police of the world, and now the bridge players of the world.

Joseph Tchong, area director for Philip Morris Asia, said this tournament will achieve something that few events can do -- Each of us will gain from knowledge, experience and understanding.

After Damiani opened the Games, Anna Maria Torlantano took the podium to introduce all 32 of the teams that will be competing in the two world championships that will get under way this morning.

Appeals Committee Members On Duty

Monday 9th October 1995

Richard Colker

Joan Gerard

Mazhar Jafri

Kathie Wei-Sender

Jean-Claude Beineix
Rebecca Rogers

Tuesday 10th October 1995

Jens Auken
Jean-Louis Derivery
Barbara Nudelman
John Wignall
Ernesto d'Orsi
Kathie Wei-Sender

Spectators

Spectators are not allowed at any table. Those interested in following a match must watch Vugraph.

Alerts

A special procedure has been set up to handle Alerts. A player who is Alerting his partner s bid must place the Alert card on the bidding board in the area where his opponent would make his next bid. The opponent then picks up the Alert card and returns it to the alerter. If the Alerting is done in any other fashion, it could make a difference during an appeals hearing.

Home team

The home team for the first round-robin is the team listed first in the tournament program.

Second round-robin

The teams in each group will be renumbered for the second round-robin according to their finish in the first round-robin. The matches will be played according to the numbers in the program, but the matches in the second round-robin will be played in reverse order from the first round-robin.

Appeals

Only captains may make appeals of a director's ruling -- players are not allowed to do this. If a player thinks a ruling should be appealed, he must consult with his captain, and it will be up to the captain to make the appeal.

Carry-over

There will be no carry-over from the round-robin matches to the knockout phase.

Vilamoura - France v Sweden (Open)

Some of the most interesting bridge of the European Championships in Vilamoura came in the first round Open Series match-up between two of the eventual qualifiers, France and Sweden. The match resulted in a 17-13 win for Sweden. These boards, showing Fallenius/Nilsland at their best, had a major bearing on the outcome.

Board 12. N/S Vul. Dealer West.

	S AK52	
	H JT4	
	D A3	
	C QT96	
S T93		S Q64
H K987		H A63
D QT5		D 9872
C 752		C AJ3
	S J87	
	H Q52	
	D KJ64	
	C K84	

In the open room, Mari played a quiet 1NT, just making for +90 to France. In the Closed Room, Nilsland opened 1NT (14-16) with the North hand and Fallenius raised to game. Perron had no particularly attractive lead a diamond looks safe, of course, but the auction suggests that a major suit lead might be more effective. Perron chose the H6.

Nilsland started very well with the excellent psychological play of the queen from dummy, making it almost impossible for Chemla to duck. He won the king and returned a heart and Perron won and cleared the suit but defensive communications had been broken. The defensive carding suggested that Perron had led from a three card suit so Nilsland decided to play him for the club length. Accordingly, he made his second good play by running the C10 then playing a second club.

Perron correctly won the second club and exited passively with a third round so Nilsland was left to find his ninth trick from either spades or diamonds. He played a spade to hand, Chemla contributing the nine, and cashed the last club. Perron and dummy each pitched diamonds and Chemla the S3. Nilsland cashed the SA, after all, the queen might fall, and paused to take stock.

He hadn't come this far to get the ending wrong. If Chemla really had the SQ it meant Perron had five diamonds, which seemed improbable after the opening lead, so Nilsland played a third spade and chalked up +600 and 11 IMPs for his team. Board 16. E/W Vul. Dealer West.

	S Q73	
	H J86	
	D 543	
	C AJ85	
S J6542		S T8
H T		H K9754
D KQJ		D 762
C Q732		C T94
	S AK9	
	H AQ32	
	D AT98	
	C K6	

At both tables the auction was a straightforward 2NT -

3NT. Chemla led the DQ and in the fullness of time Bjerregard came to nine tricks; +400. Mari was given a much tougher ride in the other room.

Fallenius led his fourth best spade to the ten and king and Mari tried a low heart to the ten, jack and king. Nilsland returned a spade and Mari won in dummy and led a diamond to his nine. Fallenius won with the queen and cleared the spades, Nilsland pitching a heart. Mari cashed both top hearts and Fallenius threw two clubs. Now he cashed the CK and exited with his last heart, pitching a club from dummy while Fallenius threw a spade. Nilsland switched to a diamond and

Fallenius dropped the king under the ace. Mari had nine tricks of course but he didn't know it. He exited with the DT, hoping to endplay Nilsland who he was convinced had the CQ. But thanks to Fallenius excellent defense this resulted in one down as it was he who had the remaining diamond honor and a spade to cash; 10 IMPs to Sweden.

Board 22. E/W Vul. Dealer East.

	S KQT84	
	H T65	
	D JT7	
	C Q3	
S J763		S A52
H J943		H K87
D 986		D Q43
C A5		C J864
	S 9	
	H AQ2	
	D AK52	
	C KT972	

Both North/South auctions began 1D, 1S and Bjerregard now rebid 1NT and played there, making ten tricks on a not particularly taxing defense.

Mari, who could not rebid 1NT as that would have been weak, tried 2C and went on with 2NT over Lebel's simple diamond preference. Lebel raised to game and Fallenius led a spade.

There were too many chances in the minor suits for Mari to risk running the spade so he played dummy's King and Nilsland won to switch to a heart. That went to the Jack and back came a second heart for the King and Ace.

Mari played a club to the Queen and ran the DJ. When that held he tried a club to the ten and Ace and Fallenius cleared the hearts. Mari cashed the CK, Fallenius pitching a spade, then the DA. Nilsland dropped the Queen under that and Mari could see an awkward blockage if diamonds were really 4-2.

He led low to the DT and played Queen and another spade, going down when Fallenius had a winner to cash after taking the Jack. Good defense from Nilsland, but the rest of the defensive carding seemed to point to the actual layout and I suspect that Mari will have marked this one down as a clear misplay on his personal crime sheet.

Anyway, it was a big swing with Sweden gaining 6 IMPs

instead of it being 6 IMPs the other way. Play of this caliber explains why at least the European half of your editorial team expects to see Sweden qualify for the K.O. stages here in Beijing, despite the toughness of their round robin group.

Bob Hamman tops world rankings;

Lynn Deas now #1 among women

Lynn Deas of the United States, three-time world women's champion, has moved into the #1 ranking among the World Bridge Federation's women players.

Bob Hamman, also of the United States, maintained his #1 ranking among open players --- a position he has held since 1985. Hamman is here in Beijing seeking still another Bermuda Bowl gold medal -- he is a member of the United States II team. Figures released by the WBF show that Deas, who won the Venice Cup in 1987, 1989 and 1991, has 2356 points to 2223 for Sandra Landy of Great Britain, who ranked second. Hamman is one of the few players in the world to have won all three of the major world championship events --- the Bermuda Bowl, the Olympiad and the Open Pairs.

The new rankings represent the present strength of players and is accomplished by subtracting 15% of a player's masterpoints each year --- excluding points won in that year, which remain at 100%.

As a result, players who do not play often will continually lose points. Placement points for overall placings are retained for life.

The three WBF ranks, in descending order, are World Grand Master, World Life Master and World Master.

The rank of World Grand Master is achieved by accumulating 10 or more WBF placing points (awarded to winners and very high finishers in WBF tournaments and zonal team championships) and winning at least one world title.

The rank of World Life Master is achieved by winning 5 or more placing points. These titles are lifetime.

A player who wins 150 WBF masterpoints becomes a World Master but loses this rank if his total falls below 150 as a result of the annual percentage cut of 15%. Here are the leaders and their totals:

Women World Grand Masters

1.	Lynn Deas	USA	2356
2.	Sandra Landy	Great Britain	2223
3.	Kerri Sanborn	USA	2092
4.	Bep Vriend	Netherlands	1951
5.	Beth Palmer	USA	1915
6.	Nicola Smith	Great Britain	1865
7.	Pat Davies	Great Britain	1865
8.	Judi Radin	USA	1834
9.	Kathie Wei-Sender	USA	1719
10.	Karen McCallum	USA	1615
11.	Sue Picus	USA	1585

12.	Carol Sanders	USA	1530
13.	Betty Ann Kennedy	USA	1515
14.	Sally Horton	Great Britain	1466
15.	Jacqui Mitchell	USA	1333
16.	Gail Greenberg	USA	920
17.	Marisa d'Andrea	Italy	691
18.	Luciana Capodanno	Italy	547
19.	Dorothy Truscott	USA	441
20.	Marisa Bianchi	Italy	246

Open World Grand Masters

1.	Bob Hamman	USA	5318
2.	Eric Rodwell	USA	4540
3.	Bobby Wolff	USA	4293
4.	Jeff Meckstroth	USA	4010
5.	Chip Martel	USA	3897
6.	Lew Stansby	USA	3887
7.	Gabriel Chagas	Brazil	3480
8.	Piotr Gawrys	Poland	3121
9.	Hervé Mouiel	France	2736
10.	Marcelo Branco	Brazil	2571
11.	Michel Perron	France	2387
12.	Hugh Ross	USA	2309
13.	Krzysztof Martens	Poland	2258
14.	Paul Chemla	France	2192
15.	Michael Rosenberg	USA	2099
16.	Peter Weichsel	USA	2069
17.	Roberto Mello	Brazil	1886
18.	Mike Lawrence	USA	1831
19.	Henri Szwarc	France	1484
20.	Pedro P. Branco	Brazil	1463

Which teams will make it to the quarterfinals?

Today 16 teams begin play in the Marlboro Bermuda Bowl and 16 teams go into battle for the Marlboro Venice Cup. By early Friday evening half these teams will be on the sidelines, with the other half qualifying to play in the quarterfinals. Which teams are most likely to make the cut?

First let's look at Group W in the Bermuda Bowl. The Netherlands of course will be a major factor -- four of the six players who were on the winning team in Santiago, Chile, two years ago are back again. United States I also is a powerhouse with three former world champions. The other three have been among the leading players in the United States for many years.

France will field a team with five former world champions, most of whom were on the victorious Olympiad team in Salsomaggiore in 1992. Indonesia has reached the world championships on many occasions, and their performance in the special tournament in Bali earlier this year indicates they re ready for Beijing.

The above four teams are the choices for qualification by both editors -- Henry Francis and Brian Senior..

In Group E of the Bermuda Bowl, almost every team has a chance to advance. United States II has piled up an

enviable record in American Contract Bridge League play, winning three Spingolds in a row and going for three straight in the Reisinger Teams in the fall. Brazil's squad boasts several former world champions.

Italy was a surprise victor in the Europeans earlier this year. Sweden has a solid team of seasoned players. Canada features the strongest team it has fielded in years. Host China improves measurably year to year.

Here are our choices. Francis: Sweden, United States II, Brazil, Canada. Senior: Sweden, Brazil, United States II, Italy.

Both 1993 Venice Cup finalists are in Group W, and both defending champion United States I and Germany should make it to the quarterfinals. China definitely must be considered -- like the open team, the women's squad shows regular improvement year by year. Canada has several players with wide international experience, as does Brazil. Israel performed well in the Europeans.

Our choices: Francis: United States I, Germany, China, Brazil. Senior: United States I, Germany, China, Canada.

In Group E of the Venice Cup, France seems like close to a sure thing for qualification -- the French have a team loaded with international experience. The America team, United States II, also has a strong international flavor with three former world champions. These are the standout teams in this group.

Great Britain did well in the Europeans, but their most experienced player has a new partner and the other players have limited international experience. Australia has a veteran squad that has come close to qualifying on several occasions over the years. Japan's stock in women's bridge has been rising over the years. Venezuela has several players who have Venice Cup and Women's Olympiad experience.

Our choices: Francis: France, United States II, Australia, Japan. Senior: France, United States II, Australia, Great Britain.

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 (N), Anders Morath, Sven
Ake Bjerregard, Johan Bennet, Anders
Wirgren, Mats Nilslund, 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.

Malboro Bermuda Bowl

Group W

Group E

Round 1

Indonesia	V	France		Sweden	V	Colombia	South
Africa	V	Venezuela		Canada	V	Egypt	Netherlands
USA I		Brazil	V	USA II	Australia	V	
Argentina		China	V	Italy			

Round 2

South Africa	V	Indonesia		Canada	V	Sweden	
Venezuela	V	France		Egypt	V	Colombia	
Netherlands	V	Australia		China	V	Brazil	
Argentina	V	USA I		Italy	V	USA II	

Round 3

Indonesia	V	Venezuela		Sweden	V	Egypt	
South Africa	V	France		Canada	V	Colombia	
Netherlands	V	Indonesia		Brazil	V	Italy	
Australia	V	USA I		USA II	V	China	

Round 4

Netherlands	V	Indonesia		Sweden	V	Brazil	
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USA I	V	France		USA II	V	Colombia South
Africa	V	Argentina		Italy	V	Canada Australia
V	Venezuela		China	V	Egypt	

Round 5

Indonesia	V	USA I		Sweden	V	USA II
Netherlands	V	France		Brazil	V	Colombia South
Africa	V	Australia		China	V	Canada Venezuela
V	Argentina		Egypt	V	Italy	

Round 6

Australia	V	Indonesia		China	V	Sweden
Argentina	V	France		Italy	V	Colombia
Netherlands	V	South Africa		Brazil	V	Canada
Venezuela	V	USA I		USA II	V	Egypt

Round 7

Indonesia	V	Argentina		Sweden	V	Italy
France	V	Australia		China	V	Colombia South
Africa	V	USA I		Canada	V	USA II Netherlands
V	Venezuela		Egypt	V	Brazil	

Malboro Venice Cup

Group W

Group E

Round 1

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

Round 2

Israel	V	Germany		USA II	V	Great Britain
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
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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
