



August 21
September 4
Lille 98

Daily News

WORLD BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS



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Issue: 15

Friday
4th September 1998

Poles victors in Open Pairs



Michal Kwiecien and Jacek Pszczola



Jill Meyers and Shawn Quinn

Michal Kwiecien and **Jacek Pszczola** of Poland came through with a powerful final session to win the prestigious Société Générale World Open Pairs today. They finished 86 points in front, more than a full board ahead of Larry Cohen and David Berkowitz of the United States. Magnus Lindkvist and Peter Fredin of Sweden finished a miniscule 1.4 matchpoints back in third place. Chris Compton and Ralph Katz of the United States, who were fourth, were only 3.8 points further back.

The Poles, who play a natural system in general, have been playing as a partnership for about five years. This is their first world championship, but they were second in the European Teams in Montecatini last year. Kwiecien also was European Junior champion in 1982.

Kwiecien expressed happiness at winning, but Pszczola shouted, "We were lucky!" Both expressed surprise at winning - "We usually do better at IMPs. Usually we're not that good in matchpoints," said Pszczola.

Americans victorious in Women's Pairs

Jill Meyers and **Shawn Quinn** of the United States capped a strong tournament with a victory in the Louis Vuitton Women's Pairs. They outdistanced Sabine Auken and Daniela von Arnim of Germany by 21.4 points, a bit more than half a board. Véronique Bessis and Catherine d'Ovidio of France were third, another 31.8 points back.

Meyers and Quinn also earned a bronze medal, tying for third in the Louis Vuitton McConnell Women's Teams. It was Meyers' third world championship - she also triumphed in the Venice Cup in both 1993 and 1997. Quinn was victorious in the 1996 Olympiad.

The winners were playing as partners for the first time - both their partners canceled a couple of weeks before the tournament, so they decided to play together. Their only previous experience together came for a few days in California just before they boarded the plane for France.



José Damiani
President of the WBF

President Damiani's address

World Bridge Federation President **José Damiani** delivered the following speech at tonight's Victory Banquet.

Dear Friends:

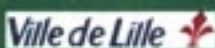
As long as you will, I am sure, share the opinion of the French players that they understand perfectly my English, I am allowed to tell you in this language how very happy we have been to be in Lille for more than two weeks.

Thank you, Madam Martine Aubry for your help and trust. I remember what you told me in order to convince me to come to Lille for the Championships - that there was nowhere else that could be the godmother of bridge. Indeed, I followed suit and, thanks to the City of Lille, to the European Community, the Nord Pas de Calais region and the Chamber of Commerce, we finally made it here. And you know that your people of Lille are very happy that we are here. They were more than pleased to see all of us with our green bags all over the city. The restaurants all recognise that they definitely prefer to deal with the people who play their sport using their heads rather than their feet - it brings far more money for them!

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SOCIÉTÉ GÉNÉRALE



CCI DE LILLE METROPOLE



continued from page 1

Here in this charming city of Lille we have welcomed 70 different countries and more than 4,000 players with possibly as many as 10,000 people visiting the area during the course of our Championship. We were very proud that you came here in such numbers to play in the numerous events arranged for you.

The sheer number of players has created its own problems. We are aware that there have been some areas of the organisation which have seemed less than perfect as a result. Please accept my personal assurance that we are working, even now, to ensure that the next World Championship of this complexity, to be held in Montreal, Canada in 2002, will be even more successful.

The future of bridge at all levels is of great concern to the World Bridge Federation, and I am very proud to have been able to convince certain governments and UNESCO of the value of bridge in education. As you know we believe that the active promotion of bridge is essential to ensure its success world-wide.

Next week I will be going, with many players and colleagues, to Lausanne, where there is to be a Grand Prix hosted by the International Olympic Committee. We are very hopeful that, following meetings with IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch, bridge will join the Winter Olympic Games, possibly as early as 2006.

The future of bridge is bright. The future of bridge is positive. Please return to your countries and help us to move into that future with confidence.

Here and now, though, there are many people to thank. We were very glad that our Championship attracted many sponsors. On your behalf I wish to thank them.

Axa for sponsoring the Axa Team.

Cara for sponsoring the Cara IMP Pairs.

Coralia for sponsoring the Coralia Continuous Pairs.

Elf for sponsoring the Senior and Zonal events.

Lipton Ice Tea for sponsoring the Lipton Ice Tea Junior Triathlon.

Louis Vuitton for sponsoring the Louis Vuitton Womens' Championships.

Mrs. Jean Besse and the Jean Besse Foundation for sponsoring the Jean Besse Par Contest.

Société Générale for sponsoring the Société Générale Open Pairs.

Tropico for sponsoring the Tropico Scholars Championship.

Vivendi for sponsoring the Vivendi Rosenblum Cup.

J M Weston for sponsoring the J M Weston Mixed Pairs.

Mrs. René Bacherich for offering the cups for the Senior Teams.

And not forgetting their technical partners:

Aberlour for the VIP Club.

Air France, official carrier.

Café de Colombie for providing the coffee.

Château d'Eau for providing the water fountains.

Citroën for providing the courtesy cars.

Compaq for providing the computers for the Par Contest.

Darty for providing the video screens.

France Télécom for providing the telecommunication equipment.

Ricoh for providing all the photocopiers.

Radio France Fréquence Nord.

We must not forget the people who have worked long hours to make these Championships a success - the individuals working in different sectors, working together as a team.

Special thanks go to the members of the WBF Organising Committee and to the Local Organising Committee, to the many members of the Hospitality Team under their leader, Odile Beineix; to Elly Ducheyne and her assistant for working long hours in the Press Room, to our excellent team of Tournament Directors led by Bill Schoder, Chief Tournament Director, and Max Bavin, Assistant Chief Tournament Director.

There was a large team of caddies managed by Annie Chekroun, who worked tirelessly moving boards and collecting results. The Systems Desk was managed by Anna Gudge, the Lineup Desk by Corrie Louwerse. Claude Dadoun and his team managed all the scoring and results. The Duplication Team was managed efficiently by Natacha Herment, dealing the many hundreds of boards required for this Championship. The Daily News Team with its Editor Henry Francis together with Mark Horton and Brian Senior, with Stelios Hadjidakis doing layout, provided information about the Championships, and this was all put on Internet by Thanassis Matziaris, Panos Pavlidis, Koen Gisjman and Laurent Dansiger.

The Bridge Vision Team had an excellent group of commentators including Guido Ferraro, Eric Kokish, Barry Rigal and Bobby Wolff co-ordinated by Jean-Paul Meyer and Vincent Labbé, and was run by our experienced French Team of Video Operators. We were very pleased to have the big screens in the main hall with special video results and pictures produced by Patrick Chalard and Frédéric Torrin. The IT was managed by Mark Newton with assistance provided by Michel Collin and Christian Laverrat.

The man who oversaw the whole operation and kept things going once again was Ton Kooijman, our talented operations director. He was assisted by Tibor Bertalan.

These Championships provided much work for the Appeals Committee, capably chaired by Jaime Ortiz-Patino. His primary assistants were Bobby Wolff, Joan Gerard, Steen Moller and myself. Thanks also to the members of the committee who worked so tirelessly.

Our thanks also go to Christine Francin, our assistant treasurer, and to the secretariat team of Carol von Linstow and Sophie Saint Léger.

My special thanks, indeed my gratitude, go to the French Bridge Federation led by President Michel Marmouget; and especially to my dear friend and colleague, Jean-Claude Beineix.

I would like also to acknowledge the work undertaken by my colleagues, the members of the Executive Council.

Finally I want to thank you, the players. I congratulate you all, not only the winners, for your ethics, your sportsmanship, your high standards. I hope that you have enjoyed your stay in Lille, and wish you a safe journey home.

Remember, bridge is a sport that can cross all boundaries. We all belong to a great family, the family of bridge players world-wide, working not only for our sport but also for our motto - bridge for peace.

CAPS for the WORKERS

Once in four years I get worried when a bridge event is nearing. This time it was the world championship pairs combined with numerous other events.

I accept that it is too complicated to do well in all details, but are we able to avoid disasters? Probably none of the players is able to imagine how difficult the organization is. You can get an idea only by following for a day what is going on in the scoring room, or by seeing how often the layout in the big playing hall has to be changed. Such labors keep the workers up until after midnight for more than a few days. Personally, I am too tired not to fall asleep as soon as I feel my bed, but early in the mornings I start wondering whether all that needs to be done for the coming day is ready. And that is a long list, keeping me awake till the alarm saves me.

How do we estimate the result. We had one major problem - the movement in the Open Pairs final - and one other too big to be called a detail - the delayed posting of the starting positions at the start of the Open Pairs.

But we had very positive results as well. The duplication room did not make any noticeable error, the time schedules in all events were kept, thanks to an adequate staff of tournament directors, and the results of the events normally were available very fast. An event such as this needs a large and intelligent staff of caddies doing a lot of hard jobs in a running tempo. We had more than 60 youngsters from Lille, most of them students, moving the boards, preparing the tables, handling the scoresheets, building up the playing room, etc, etc.

I have three caps to be awarded and one is going to this ever smiling gang. The second goes to Odile Beineix, who directed a staff of people at the Hospitality Desk and did hundreds of other things for the benefit of all the participants. She might have travelled more kilometers than I, and she certainly smiled more often than I did. The third is for Jean-Claude Beineix, for whom 'Lille' became his work of life and who spent months and months to get all details organized. He accomplished an impressive result. He can be proud of his personal dedication and that of the people working for the FFB who settled in Lille during recent weeks.

I am satisfied with our performance, and I am relieved from my worries. That means a quiet sleep for the next three and a half years and then up to Montreal in Canada.

Ton Kooijman
Operations Director



Martine Aubry
Minister of Labour and Solidarity
1st Assistant of the Mayor of Lille

Mme Aubry's address

Here are highlights from the address delivered by Mme. Maurine Aubry, minister of Employment and Solidarity and first assistant to the Mayor of Lille.

Dear Friends,

I am very pleased to be participating in the prize-giving of these World Bridge Championships with Mr. José Damiani, president of the World Bridge Federation.

But before congratulating the winners, I would like to thank all of you for your presence in Lille which allowed us to become the bridge capital of the world for the past two weeks.

It was wonderful to be able to count each day, in the international press, more than 3000 articles that mentioned the World Championships in Lille.

We will not forget that it was here that "Goren-in-the-Box", the famous program, had to bow to the superiority of human intelligence only two days after the start of these competitions. It is proof that our climate is lucky for bridge.

Our country is very proud to have organized two events this year that have been particularly newsworthy. The football World Cup last June was lucky for France. And now this prestigious championship.

Our greatest pleasure has been to welcome all the personalities who have come from all over the world. For example, this evening you represent more than 70 countries. Bridge allows one to meet others around a table to play a game with a mutual respect for the same rules and with the same chances of winning. It really is a universal sport because it is both intellectual and accessible to all.

I am also astonished when I learn that young children are playing bridge in the playground. 30,000 students in France are already fans of this game. The Fédération Française, like many others I expect, organizes lessons in schools, in offices and also in

prisons. These initiatives deserve to be recognized and encouraged. They favour reflection, strategy, concentration and numerous activities. It is obvious that the 15 days of the championships are always tiring. Allow me to address special congratulations and encouragement to the juniors and the school children who participated in this difficult competition. I salute the endeavours of our champions from the metropole Lilloise (Lambersart): Capucine and Amelie who won in the school category and our Lillois, Jérôme and Guillaume Grenthe, who are sure bets in French bridge. My wish is that each one will soon become an Olympic champion.

I know you are hoping to be integrated into the Olympic Games. I think you have your place in these games. The performances of the bridge players certainly deserve to figure in the history of human exploits.

We would like to thank you, Mr. President, for the perfect organization of the Championships, and I am already looking forward to hearing that these 1998 World Championships were the best ever.

As you know, Lille is at the centre of an exceptional network of exchanges and communication at the heart of which live more than 1.2 million people and a potential of 100 million clients and businesses, less than two hours away, in a Euroregion where producers and consumers meet.

If you can stay a few more hours and wander round our Braderie, you will be able to see this in reality. Our Belgian, Dutch, English and German neighbours never miss this very popular event. It goes to show that we combine all the needed criteria to become a Eurocity.

It is thanks to this dynamic and stimulating context that Lille is now placed in first position of the cities the best prepared for the challenges of the third millennium.

I hope that you found the time to sample the delights of Lille and our region.

All-round performance

by Barry Rigal

Perhaps I am a little biased, but I thought that the Daily News might be interested in noting the all-round showing of one of my regular partners, Sylvia Moss.

Sylvia has played bridge for many years (and was married to two well-known players - John Solodar and Mike Moss). However, she never took the game seriously and never participated in high-level tournaments until three years ago.

She came to her first World Championship this year and finished 24th in the W.M. Weston Mixed Pairs, playing with Solodar. Then her team reached the last eight in the Louis Vuitton McConnell Teams, and finally she played with Gail Greenberg in the Louis Vuitton Women's Pairs - you have seen her result there.

Sylvia is the office manager for the Blackstone Group, a multi-million investment management group. She is accompanied at the tournament by a bewildering range of "family". Gail and she were both married to Moss. She and Judi Radin were both married to Solodar, and Brad Moss is her stepson.

SOCIÉTÉ GÉNÉRALE GROUP : PROFILE

Société Générale is a key player in the increasingly global banking market

■ European Loan House of the Year (IFR)

- N°1 bookrunner for all French franc bond issues (IFR)
- N°1 bank for DEM/FRF and USD/FRF currency swaps, FRF interest rate options and CAC 40 index options (*Risk Magazine*)
- N°4 arranger of syndicated credits by number of issues (excluding US) (IFR)
- N°13 bookrunner for all international equity issues (IFR)
- N°14 adviser for European cross-border mergers and acquisitions (*Acquisitions*)

France:

- N°1 lead manager for equity and convertible bond issues
- N°1 bookrunner for equity block trades on the secondary market
- N°1 mutual fund manager (based on assets under management)

- 7th largest bank worldwide based on total assets*
- 13th largest capitalization on the Paris stock exchange at December 31, 1997
- 350,000 shareholders
- 2,600 branches in France (including Crédit du Nord)
- 500 offices in 80 countries

■ Ratings at December 31, 1997

Aa3 (Moody's), AA (IBCA),
AA- (Standard & Poor's)

* *The Banker*, July 1998



GROUP

Final

Session Five

Société Générale Open Pairs

The final session of the Société Générale World Open Pairs Championship is always the most exciting as the players in contention experience the emotions of success and failure. The barometer scoring means that they have almost instantaneous knowledge of the current standings for the first 16 boards which undoubtedly adds to the tension.

The twin enemies of time and space mean that we can only bring you a few deals but they involve the pairs who were at the business end of the rankings.

Board 4. Game All. Dealer West.

♠ K ♥ 6 3 2 ♦ Q 8 7 5 3 ♣ Q J 5 3		♠ 7 4 ♥ A K 9 8 ♦ K 10 9 4 ♣ A K 6	
♠ J 6 5 ♥ 5 4 ♦ A J 6 2 ♣ 10 8 7 4		♠ A Q 10 9 8 3 2 ♥ Q J 10 7 ♦ — ♣ 9 2	
West <i>Ramer</i> Pass Pass	North <i>Zaremba</i> Pass Pass	East <i>Paulissen</i> INT Dble	South <i>Ozdil</i> 3♠ All Pass

This deal featured the pairs lying second and third.

East had a normal strong no-trump and South made the call that would surely attract the majority vote on a bidding panel. Current expert theory says that doubles should be for take out and with a maximum and a small doubleton spade East had the perfect hand. With an ace and some hopes of a ruff West was happy to pass, especially at this vulnerability.

In the European style he led the ♥4, low from two small, and the spot cards in dummy made the situation clear to East. He took the ♥AK and returned the ♥8 for West to ruff. He duly switched to a club and East took the king and played his remaining heart. Dummy could overruff and declarer came to hand with a diamond ruff to draw trumps, losing another club at the end.

+200 was clearly a good result for the Dutch pair.

The next pair we feature from the Netherlands did not do so well.

Board 5. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

♠ A J 8 ♥ A Q 10 9 7 5 4 3 ♦ 8 ♣ A		♠ Q 6 5 2 ♥ 2 ♦ A K 10 7 ♣ Q J 7 6	
♠ K 10 7 4 3 ♥ K J 8 ♦ 3 ♣ 10 8 5 4		♠ 9 ♥ 6 ♦ Q J 9 6 5 4 2 ♣ K 9 3 2	
West <i>Pszczola</i> Pass All Pass	North <i>deBoer</i> 2♣ 3♥	East <i>Kwiecien</i> Pass Pass	South <i>Muller</i> 2♦ 4♥

The VuGraph commentators opined that only de Boer knew what he was doing on this deal although to be fair his hand is very difficult to evaluate.

East led the ♦A and switched to his trump. That looks like the end of the matter so far as making the contract is concerned but after East put up the heart king declarer won with the ace, cashed the ♥Q and exited with a heart to West's jack. West now played the ♠10 covered by the jack and queen. This type of surrounding play is well known but here it was declarer who held the all important ♠8 not West. East did well to switch to the ♣6 eliminating all danger. Declarer was one down, and -100 was not likely to be a great score.

Board 6. E/W Vul. Dealer East.

♠ Q J 9 7 3 ♥ 9 8 ♦ 9 ♣ J 9 5 3 2		♠ 2 ♥ A 6 3 ♦ K Q 10 6 4 3 ♣ K 8 6	
♠ K 10 5 4 ♥ 7 5 4 2 ♦ 8 7 2 ♣ A Q		♠ A 8 6 ♥ K Q J 10 ♦ A J 5 ♣ 10 7 4	
West <i>Pszczola</i> 2♦ Pass Dble	North <i>deBoer</i> 2♠ 3♠ All Pass	East <i>Kwiecien</i> 1♦ 3♦ Pass	South <i>Muller</i> INT Pass Pass

If de Boer could be given the benefit of the doubt he was surely wrong this time. South was marked with some values in diamonds and he hadn't supported spades over East's 3♦ bid.

It's worth noting that West simply supported his partner rather than make a slightly speculative double of INT. That may be partly explained by the light style of opening bids that so many pairs now employ. East did the wrong thing by bidding 3♦ and who would not when your six-card suit has been supported but North was there to save him.

East led the ♦K and declarer won with the ace and knocked out the ♥A. East switched to a club and West took the ♣AQ before playing another diamond. Declarer ruffed and ran the ♠Q. West took his king and returned the ♠4 which ran to South's eight. He was able to cash the ♥KQ and ruff a diamond but had to concede a trick at the end.

One down doubled was not going to be good-as 3♦ would surely go down with South on lead.

It was time to take a look at the leaders.

Board 7. Game All. Dealer South.

♠ 10 6 ♥ Q 8 7 ♦ A J 9 5 4 ♣ 7 6 2		♠ J 8 7 3 ♥ K 9 3 ♦ 10 7 2 ♣ 9 5 4	
♠ K Q 9 5 2 ♥ 10 6 5 2 ♦ 8 6 3 ♣ J		♠ A 4 ♥ A J 4 ♦ K Q ♣ A K Q 10 8 3	
West <i>Berkowitz</i> Pass Pass Pass Pass All Pass	North <i>Bocchi</i> 1♠ 2♥ 3♠ 5♣	East <i>Cohen</i> Pass Pass Pass Pass	South <i>Duboin</i> 1♣ 2♦ 3♣ 4♣ 6♣

This was a highly artificial auction where South's 2♦ bid was game forcing and 3♣ asked for aces. The final contract was sound enough but not the one you would want to be in during a match pointed pairs. How nice for the Americans to collect a huge result with no values.

Irish Luck

by Peter Fordham

Prior to embracing multi-culturism, and substantially altering the mix of migration, Australia was very much an Anglo-Irish country so "The luck of the Irish" was a widely used and understood term.

Playing in the third round of the qualifying series of the Open Pairs, my partner John Roberts and I, towards the end of the round, were struggling through a nightmare session when we sat down against two very pleasant Irishmen. Noticing their nationality, I commented to those present, "We'll need the luck of the Irish from here on in to escape this debacle." This is what transpired at their table.

Board 1. Nil Vul. Dealer North.

♠ 6 2 ♥ AK 10 7 6 5 ♦ K 10 7 2 ♣ A	♠ AQ 9 8 5 ♥ Q J ♦ 9 4 ♣ 10 8 5 4	♠ 7 ♥ 8 4 3 ♦ AQ 5 3 ♣ K Q J 6 2	♠ K J 10 4 3 ♥ 9 2 ♦ J 8 6 ♣ 9 7 3
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North cashed the ♠A and switched to the ♦9. I buoyantly commented to the others when the ♦A held, "Well the slam's now makeable but will I make it?" Giving up on the idea of 4-0 trumps on side, I crossed to the ♥A, noting the fall of the honour with North,

ruffed a spade on the dummy and finessed to North's other bare honour for one down.

Muttering some obscenities about restricted choice and Irish luck, I ventured forth to Board 2.

Board 2. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

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

Not wishing to sell out to 4♣ at pairs and hoping for a little Irish Luck, I ventured a fourth heart to confirm that I still held 13 cards and hoped that the bidding would die as it did. North led his spade and won the trump ace at trick two. After a little thought, presumably (from my perspective) to think about South's entry, he led a low club. Since the spade lead was pretty obviously a singleton from my view, I played the J♣, simply to maybe confuse South. Somewhat surprisingly the J♣ held, making 4♥ and the Irish were left to ponder the vagaries of Irish Luck with boomerang attached.

Neat ending

Paul Weinstock of Israel collected nearly all the matchpoints on this deal from the second session of the Zonal Pairs.

Board 18. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

♠ J 10 7 5 ♥ 2 ♦ J 10 5 3 ♣ 10 9 8 2	♠ AK 6 ♥ Q 10 9 ♦ 8 7 6 ♣ AK 7 4	♠ Q 4 3 2 ♥ K J 6 5 4 3 ♦ A ♣ J 5
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♠ 9 8 ♥ A 8 7 ♦ K Q 9 4 2 ♣ Q 6 3	♠ 9 8 ♥ A 8 7 ♦ K Q 9 4 2 ♣ Q 6 3
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	S																	
West	North	East	South															
Pass	3NT	1♥ All Pass	2♦															

The opening heart lead rode to Weinstock's 9, and East was forced to win the diamond return. West here had a chance to put the defence on the right track, despite his meager values by playing the ♦J to show interest in spades. However, he played a lazy 3, and East switched to the ♣J. Weinstock won with the ace, took two diamond tricks, and gave up a diamond to West to set up his long diamond.

West of course switched to spades, leading the jack, but it was too late. Weinstock won with the ace and took the ♣Q and ♣K to reach this position:

♠ 10 7 5 ♥ - ♦ - ♣ 10	♠ K 6 ♥ Q ♦ - ♣ 7	♠ Q 4 ♥ K J ♦ - ♣ -
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♠ 9 ♥ A 8 ♦ 9 ♣ -	♠ 9 ♥ A 8 ♦ 9 ♣ -
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When Weinstock now led the ♥Q, East attempted to mislead him by playing the jack, but Weinstock knew the position. He rose with the ace, and of course West had to pitch a spade. Now Weinstock called for the good diamond. West had to hold the ♣10, so he sluffed another spade. The ♣7 was no longer a threat, so Weinstock pitched it. But now East was squeezed - there was no way to protect both majors. Weinstock wound up with 11 tricks when most of the field collected only nine or ten.

The Amazing Thailand Bridge Festival and 20th Asian Bridge Club Championships

These two events will be held together from December 2nd to 7th in the Montien Riverside Hotel, Bangkok. The program includes two Open Pairs competitions plus Open, Ladies, Youth and Mixed Teams championships. All teams will play in the same field and separated from the quarter-final stage onwards. The finals will be shown as an exhibition to demonstrate bridge to the officials and press of the Asian Games. We extend invitations to all Zone 4 and Zone 6 NCBOs and also to all other WBF NCBOs. December is the best time of year in Bangkok and the hotel is set in peaceful and luscious surroundings by the Chao Phya River.

This is high season in Bangkok and, with the Asian Games, please make preliminary hotel reservations by September 15th, confirmed reservations by October 15th.

Contact: **Dr. Ghittipatng Sitajitt:**
 C/o Magic Eyes
 16th Floor, United Center building
 323 Silom Road, Bangkok 10500, Thailand
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A complete top!

Betty Speelman and Marjolein Debets of the Netherlands gained a complete top on this board from the fourth session of the Louis Vuitton Women's Pairs.

Board 14. Love All. Dealer East.

	♠ K 8 7 4		
	♥ A Q J		
	♦ J 9		
	♣ A Q 6 2		
♠ A Q 6 5	♠ 10 9	♠ 10 9	♠ 10 9
♥ 8 7 3	♥ K 9 6 4	♥ K 9 6 4	♥ K 9 6 4
♦ 10 6 2	♦ Q 8 4 3	♦ Q 8 4 3	♦ Q 8 4 3
♣ 8 7 4	♣ K J 10	♣ K J 10	♣ K J 10
	♠ J 3 2		
	♥ 10 5 2		
	♦ A K 7 5		
	♣ 9 5 3		
West	North	East	South
<i>Menil</i>	<i>Speelman</i>	<i>Pigeaud</i>	<i>Debets</i>
Pass	INT	Pass	Pass
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

The opening lead of the ♦3 ran to declarer's jack, and Speelman immediately went after spades, leading low to the jack and queen and carefully noting the fall of the 9 from East. R. Menil attacked hearts, and F. Pigeaud won the king and continued the suit. Now Speelman led the KING of spades, pinning the 10 as West won the ace. She won the heart return and cashed the good ♠8 and ♠7. After taking her top diamonds, she got out of dummy with a diamond. East had to win and lead a club into declarer's tenace. No wonder Speelman got all the matchpoints.

Thank you!

I wish to thank all the journalists for giving me such a pleasant time in the Press Room. It made the work easy. A special thanks to Hans Werge (and others) for the daily cakes.

I also thank the Dutch Bridge Federation for sponsoring all the coffee. Journalists can't work without coffee. It was highly appreciated.

Thanks also to my new assistant Christine van der Ven, who proved to be the right person for the job.

I loved being here. Thanks to the entire organization.

Elly Ducheyne
Press Room Manager

A French slam as seen by a Belgian

By Colette Grosfils,
translated by Herman De Wael

You may well have smiled at the two Belgian Slams reported in previous Daily News (10 and 11). But 6♠ missing the ace and king of trumps should have been the third Belgian story.

Not so. This slam was bid and made by a well-known French pair: François Leenhardt and Christian Mari.

Société Générale Open Pairs semifinal, 1st session

Board 23. All vul. Dealer South.

	♠ A		
	♥ Q 5 4		
	♦ Q J 10 9 6		
	♣ 9 8 7 2		
♠ 6 5 4 3 2	♠ Q J 10 9 8 7	♠ Q J 10 9 8 7	♠ Q J 10 9 8 7
♥ A K 10	♥ 9 7 6 3	♥ 9 7 6 3	♥ 9 7 6 3
♦ 7	♦ A K	♦ A K	♦ A K
♣ K J 5 3	♣ A	♣ A	♣ A
	♠ K		
	♥ J 8 2		
	♦ 8 5 4 3 2		
	♣ Q 10 6 4		
West	North	East	South
<i>Mari</i>		<i>Leenhardt</i>	
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♠	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

After a long hesitation Christian Mari bid 6♠. When spreading the dummy, he spoke to his partner, saying, "Excusez-moi, je ne suis pas sûr d'avoir bien compris... !" (Sorry, I'm not certain I have understood).

No matter what lead, the contract is cold, if only...

But Chance, or arithmetic provisions, are not just. On the first spade trick, the ace and king crash together and the rest is child's play.

Boards played, correction

Concerning the number of boards played, Hasse Hallen remarked that in two sessions of the Continuous Pairs, 27 deals were played by all players, instead of 24.

Patrick Jourdain asked to add the Schools Tournament (22 pairs), and this means that the total number of boards played at these championships becomes 200,134!

Brilliant deception

America's Stevie Robinson and Peter Boyd were on the wrong end of a brilliant deceptive play on this board from the 4th session of the Société Générale World Open Pairs Championship.

They were so impressed they made sure the details made their way into the Daily News!

Board 1. Love All. Dealer North.

	♠ 4 3 2		
	♥ Q 6 2		
	♦ 5 3		
	♣ K Q 10 7 3		
♠ K Q 10	♠ A 8 7 6 5	♠ A 8 7 6 5	♠ A 8 7 6 5
♥ 10 7 3	♥ 9 8 5 4	♥ 9 8 5 4	♥ 9 8 5 4
♦ K 10 6 2	♦ J 7	♦ J 7	♦ J 7
♣ A J 2	♣ 9 8	♣ 9 8	♣ 9 8
	♠ J 9		
	♥ A K J		
	♦ A Q 9 8 4		
	♣ 6 5 4		
West	North	East	South
<i>Robinson</i>		<i>Boyd</i>	
Pass	Pass	Pass	INT
	3NT	All Pass	

With an awkward lead West went for a the old standby, 'fourth best of your longest and strongest'. The ♦2 went to the jack and declarer's ace! He played a club to the king and when that held he came back to hand with a heart and played another club to the queen. He then cleared the club suit. West was in with the ace and was at the crossroads.

East had followed to the clubs with the eight and then the nine. It was a Smith Peter situation but here East had been dealt poor spot cards and in any event would usually give count in case declarer could be cut off from the club suit. However many players then simply use the next suit as the one in which to tell partner how they feel about the opening lead. East had played the ♥4 on the first round of the suit and discarded the ♥9 on the third round of clubs.

Whatever, West played the ♦K and followed it with a low one. Now declarer had eleven tricks.

Should West have been able to see through declarer's brilliant deception?

In our experience the image created in the mind when declarer plays the ace of diamonds is virtually impossible to overcome whatever the evidence of the subsequent cards played by partner.

SOCIÉTÉ GÉNÉRALE OPEN PAIRS

(Final Standings)

1 KWIECIEN M	PSZCZOLA J	POL	55.85	25 CALDERWOOD G	SHEK D	GBR	51.20	49 OLANSKI W	STARKOWSKI W	POL	48.54
2 COHEN L	BERKOWITZ D	USA	54.99	26 VERSACE	SEMENTA	ITA	50.97	50 SOLOWAY P	ZOLOTOW S	USA	48.34
3 LINDQUIST	FREDIN	SWE	54.97	27 WOLPERT D	CZYZOWICZ J	CAN	50.64	51 KOKKO K	EBENIUS J	SWE	47.95
4 RAMER R	PAULISSEN G	NLD	54.80	28 ABECASSIS M	QUANTIN J	FRA	50.51	52 ALLEGRINI P	PALAU J	FRA	47.92
5 MARTENS K	SZYMANOWSKI M	POL	54.79	29 LI X	SUN S	CHN	50.45	53 MARI C	LEENHARDT F	FRA	47.81
6 COMPTON C	KATZ R	USA	54.76	30 GARNER	WEINSTEIN	USA	50.42	54 BRAMLEY	LAZARD	USA	47.61
7 MITTELMAN	GRAVES	CAN	54.69	31 KOWALSKI A	ROMANSKI J	POL	50.24	55 PARAIN Y	DUBUS X	FRA	47.42
8 MECKSTROTH J	JOHNSON P	USA	54.55	32 PILON D	FAIGENBAUM A	FRA	50.22	56 BESSIS M	ROMBAUT J	FRA	47.31
9 OZDIL M	ZAREMBA J	POL	54.44	33 LANTARON L	KNAP A	ESP	50.11	57 GOTARD T	HOLLOWSKI Z	DEU	47.24
10 WEICHSEL P	SONTAG A	USA	53.23	34 LAMBARDI P	CAMBEROS H	ARG	49.85	58 SHARMA V	SADHU A	IND	47.19
11 CHAGAS	BRANCO	BRA	53.05	34 JASSEM K	TUSZYNSKI P	POL	49.85	58 GILL P	COURTNEY M	AUS	47.19
12 BOCCHI N	DUBOIN G	ITA	53.01	36 SCHWEITZER H	DECHELETTE N	FRA	49.83	60 JIALAL M	MEISS J	NLD	47.15
12 CUTHBERTSON M	MATHESON J	GBR	53.01	37 MARTEL C	STANSBY L	USA	49.80	61 LE PODER J	SOLARI J C	FRA	46.85
14 DEBOER W	MULLER B	NLD	52.83	38 GAWRYS P	LESNIEWSKI M	POL	49.76	62 PAWLIK A	GWINNER H	DEU	46.83
15 HACKETT J	HACKETT J	GBR	52.52	39 SCHOU S	RON J	DNK	49.75	63 DE ZURICH C	STUTZ U	CHE	46.81
16 CRONIER P	SALAMA M	FRA	52.42	40 WANG W	ZHUANG Z	CHN	49.69	64 LALANNE B	SALEY C	FRA	46.59
17 SIMSON D	RODWELL E	USA	52.26	41 MILLER B	CHEEK C	USA	49.61	65 DUPRAZ P	SALLIERE G	FRA	46.53
18 AUKEN J	KOCH PALMUND	DNK	52.21	42 KIERZNOWSKI R	LUKASZEWICZ K	POL	49.35	66 HAUSSON B	SIGURDSSON S	ISL	46.50
19 CAMPOS	VILLAR BOAS	BRA	52.04	43 VLACHAKI M	MAJ	GRC	49.24	67 FREED E	PASSELL M	USA	45.69
20 HOYLAND S O	HOYLAND J	NOR	51.95	44 ROSS H	LAWRENCE M	USA	49.09	68 PULGA R	RINALDI G	ITA	45.67
21 HAMMAN R	MAHMOOD Z	USA	51.81	45 MORSE D	WILDAVSKY A	USA	49.04	69 AUBY D	NYSTROM F	SWE	45.54
22 LAIR M	SCHWARTZ R	USA	51.60	46 WOLD E	ZECKHAUSER R	USA	49.01	70 VAN MIDDELEM	JEUNEN F	BEL	44.29
23 MAASA	RAMONDT V	NLD	51.56	47 LEVIN R	MOSS B	USA	48.81	71 DE CHATILLON	HELLER J	FRA	42.16
24 WEINSTEIN S	ROSENBERG M	USA	51.49	48 BERGER H	GUTTMANN D	AUT	48.68	72 HAMAOU I S	CAPONI C	VEN	0



LOUIS VUITTON WOMEN'S PAIRS

(Final Standings)

1 QUINN	MEYERS	USA	55.14	13 SOKOLOV	SPRUNG	USA	51.10	25 FAVAS A	DE HEREDIA B	FRA	48.75
2 AUKEN	VON ARNIM	DEU	54.69	14 LACROIX E	POULAIN C	FRA	51.00	26 KITA M	KROGULSKA J	POL	48.60
3 BESSIS V	D'OVIDIO C	FRA	54.03	15 RADIN J	EYTHORSDDOTTIR	USA	50.86	27 NEHMERT P	MIROSLAW W	DEU	48.19
4 MOSS S	GREENBERG G	USA	54.01	15 CAPODANNO L	D'ANDREA M	ITA	50.86	28 MIDSKOG K	MELLSTROM J	SWE	48.04
5 VRIEND B	ARNOLDS C	NLD	53.28	17 SUN M	WANG H	CHN	50.49	29 KEARSE A	MITCHELL J	USA	48.03
6 MENIL R	PIGEAUD F	FRA	53.04	18 CORMACK J	HAVAS E	AUS	50.32	30 LOTTE M	COUSSON M	FRA	48.01
7 WEI-SENDER K	CHAMBERS J	USA	52.82	18 FISCHER	WEIGKRICHT	AUT	50.32	31 GIANARDI C	ROVERA L	ITA	47.22
7 WEN FEI W	YU Z	CHN	52.82	20 SANDERS	TRUSCOTT	USA	50.30	32 MORSE	MICHAELS	USA	47.14
9 YA-LAN Z	LING G	CHN	51.81	21 TORNAY	LEWIS	USA	50.10	33 MODLIN M	MANSELL P	ZAF	45.97
10 ZUR-ALBU M	LEVIT-PORAT R	ISR	51.66	22 DEBETS M	SPEELMAN B	NLD	49.82	34 JEANNIN-NALTET	LEMAITRE E	FRA	45.93
11 SUTHERLIN P	HAMMAN P	USA	51.45	23 BLOOM V	HOLROYD M	ZAF	49.63	35 NAKAO T	NISHIDA N	JPN	44.70
12 WILLARD S	CRONIER B	FRA	51.29	24 WOOD	KIVEL	USA	48.80	36 TIBI-DESBOIS C	KERLERO P	FRA	40.41



CARA IMPs PAIRS

(Final Standings, first 48 pairs)

1 SEAMON M	EKEBLAD R	USA	123.20	17 HARDEMAN A	SEGERS G	BEL	81.60	33 KEAVENEY G	TIMLIN R	IRL	58.40
2 MASURE D	LEFLON M	FRA	120.85	18 BALICKI	ZAKRZEWSKI	POL	79.60	34 HIRATA M	JANAYAMA T	JPN	56.20
3 LADYZHENSKY A	POVLOVA	RUS	120.30	19 VAN DEN BERGH	ROY P	BEL	78.95	35 MIYAKUNI K	SHIMIZUY	JPN	56.20
4 HAGA M	SUNDENG C	NOR	116.40	20 PIEDRA F	ALUJAS G	ARG	77.90	36 TURANT W	RUSSYAN J	POL	55.40
5 ADAD P	AUJALEU M	FRA	112.40	21 BORIN K	EFRAIMSSON B	SWE	77.30	37 SZENBERG S	WILKOSZ A	POL	52.10
6 CIECHOMSKI J	LOLUDA P	POL	110.80	22 DAM V	KROJGAARD M	DNK	75.60	38 GHOSE S	GHOSH T	IND	51.85
7 SATZ B	EISENSTEIN	USA	110.25	23 BAJEK J	CZYKOWSKI C	POL	73.80	39 DUBUS M	DARLOT R	FRA	51.70
8 WINCIOREK T	KWIECINSKI M	POL	101.90	24 CAPAYANNIDES A	CAPAYANNIDES C	GRC	70.90	40 BECK M	JENSEN A	DNK	51.70
9 HANLON T	MCGANN H	IRL	101.35	25 SANDSMARK T	SAELEMINSINDE E	NOR	70.30	41 VISWANATHAN A	CLAVER J	FRA	51.70
10 YOMTOV B	FOSTER J	USA	93.10	26 PHILLIPS D	PHILLIPS J	CAN	67.20	42 VANDERZEYPEN Z	DEBUS E	BEL	51.05
11 BAKKERMEN F	BAKKERMEN T	NLD	90.70	27 WAKSMAN S	NAHMIA S	FRA	66.20	43 GROMOV V	VOLINA V	RUS	50.40
12 COHNER G	FRECHE P	DEU	85.70	28 OPALINSKI R	PIETRASZEK M	POL	66.10	44 GASIOROWSKI J	KARDAS D	POL	49.20
13 GOWAN L	BAXTER K	GRB	84.50	29 HEGDE U	HAROUNI J	GRB	64.80	45 WATTS M	EWART N	AUT	48.55
14 HAMMER H	PEDERSEN T	NOR	84.20	30 PARASRAMPURIA	MANGO J	IND	61.60	46 IMAKURA T	HIRAMORIT	JPN	47.20
15 RISKIN A	MALINOVSKIY J	RUS	83.30	31 LARA M	CAPUCHO M		59.90	47 BERIASHVILI R	KASRAQZE A	GEO	45.30
16 GUE P	BILSKI G	AUS	82.90	32 LARSEN K	GLUBOK B	USA	58.45	48 HARRISON J	WHITE G	GRB	43.90



The IOC Grand Prix

OLYMPIC MUSEUM, LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND
7 - 11 SEPTEMBER 1998

The world of bridge competes in the *International Olympic Committee Grand Prix*, the first bridge tournament ever to be staged by the world's Olympic movement.

Watch the battle of giants: the Bridge Olympiad winners of all times - **Brazil, France, Italy, Poland, USA** - and **China**, either on site or over Internet at:

www.bridge.gr

Results and expert commentary by Mark Horton will be available after each segment throughout the competition. Vugraph at www.bridgeplaza.com

Normal lead, but . . .

Hugh Ross made his normal opening lead - fourth best from his longest and strongest - on this deal from the third final session of the Société Générale Open Pairs.

Board 22. E/W Vul. Dealer East.

<p>♠ J 9 7 ♥ K J 6 2 ♦ A 9 8 5 4 ♣ 9</p>	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		<p>♠ A 10 6 3 2 ♥ 10 7 ♦ 2 ♣ A J 8 7 2</p>	<p>♠ Q 8 5 ♥ Q 8 5 4 3 ♦ - ♣ K 10 6 5 4</p>
	N											
W		E										
	S											
		<p>♠ K 4 ♥ A 9 ♦ K Q J 10 7 6 3 ♣ Q 3</p>										

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♥	Pass	1NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Ross led the ♦5. Imagine his surprise when dummy had a singleton and his partner showed out! When the Chinese declarer won with the 6 and knocked out the ♦A, he suddenly had 10 tricks for just about all the matchpoints. Once in a while a notrump bid on a hand like that pays off. With a heart opening lead, the contract will go down - probably two tricks.

The Aberlour VIP Club News



Jean Reine "Directeur Adjoint" of the Communications division of Société Générale, **Bernard Liochon** Vice President of the French Bridge Federation and **Jean-Claude Poidevin** head Société Générale of the sponsorship division of Société Générale were here today to see the final results in the Société Générale World Open Pairs Championship.

Couples

After the brothers and sisters, here are the couples:

There were at least six couples in the Pairs finals, although not playing as partners: Sabine and Jens Auken, Véronique and Michel Bessis, Bénédicte and Philippe Cronier don't hide the fact - they have the same surnames. But then there are also Bep Vriend and Anton Maas, Betty Speelman and Gert-Jan Paulissen and Hjordis Eythorssdottir and Curtis Cheek.

Senior Pairs Final

by Patrick Jourdain

A typical bit of imagination by the 89-year-old Boris Schapiro reaped an unexpected reward on this deal from the Elf Senior Pairs final:

Board 6 Dealer East; E/W Game

<p>♠ 8 6 4 3 ♥ K 7 6 5 ♦ Q 10 7 4 ♣ A</p>	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		<p>♠ A K J 10 ♥ - ♦ K 6 2 ♣ K 9 7 4 3 2</p>	<p>♠ 7 2 ♥ A Q J 8 4 ♦ A J 9 3 ♣ 10 8</p>
	N											
W		E										
	S											
		<p>♠ Q 9 5 ♥ 10 9 3 2 ♦ 8 5 ♣ Q J 6 5</p>										

West	North	East	South
<i>Gordon</i>		<i>Schapiro</i>	
		2♥	Pass
3♣	Dble	3♦	Pass
4♥	Dble	Pass	4♠
Dble	Pass	Pass	5♣
Dble	All Pass		

West led a heart ruffed in dummy. Schapiro led a club off the table to the queen and ace. West, thinking South had four spades so that there was no discard to be had, exited passively with a spade in case South held ♦x. So 5♣ doubled rolled home.