

# Kaplan honoured as games open



**José Damiani**  
President of the  
World Bridge Federation

*First of all, let me welcome all of you, the players, who are here after facing the tough qualification of your Zonal Championships.*

*It is unfortunate that we did not succeed in having all of the qualifying teams here, thus undermining our continued efforts for Bridge for Peace. Once again, politics have over-ridden the wishes of players, who simply want to participate in their sport.*

*Nevertheless, I am sure that you will enjoy your stay here in Tunisia, which is one of the most peaceful and hospitable countries in the world.*

*I am certain you will already have been impressed with the warmth of your welcome, with the beautiful surroundings and with the friendliness of the people.*

*I would particularly like to thank Mr. Slah Mâaoui, the Minister of Tourism and Artisanat for his unfailing help and support, as well as our friend Hosni Zouari, the President of the Fédération Tunisienne de Bridge and his excellent Organising Committee chaired by Fakhreddine Messai.*

*I am confident that these Championships will go down in the history of Bridge as being among the most interesting, successful and enjoyable, and that they will be played in the best spirit of the game, which is one of our main concerns.*

## Memorial service for Kaplan

A special memorial service for Edgar Kaplan will be held at 10 this morning in the Forum (Sol Azur, first floor). Everyone is invited.

## In memory of Edgar Kaplan

The President of the *World Bridge Federation*, **José Damiani**, and the Executive Council mourn the loss of their dear friend, Edgar Kaplan. Edgar's contribution to bridge was not only as a world class player but also as the Chairman of the Laws Committee, an expert on Bridge Appeals, a most well-known journalist, a contributor to the organization of World Championships, as well as being the captain of the winning team in the 1995 World Championships.

Edgar was very clearly also the best commentator we ever had on vugraph, where his humour was brilliant and never offensive.

Edgar's death is a great loss, not only for bridge, but also for all the people who play the game and for whom Edgar could not have been anything other than the most courteous friend.

## Israeli Women withdraw... ...replaced by Italians

The World Bridge Federation regrets to announce the withdrawal of the Israeli Women's team from the World Bridge Championships.

The Tunisian Government had guaranteed to provide entry visas to all participants of the World Bridge Championships and to afford adequate personal security to each and every delegation. The Israeli Government was not satisfied that the special security situation of the Israeli team had been properly addressed. Therefore, the Israeli Government has withheld permission for the Israeli team to travel to Tunisia.

The Italian Women's team will replace the Israeli team in the Championships.

The World Bridge Federation reiterates its commitment to ensure that all participants to World Bridge Championships will be given entry visas and adequate security when attending World Bridge Federation events.

## Edgar Kaplan bridge titan, confidante and friend

By Jaime Ortiz-Patiño

Edgar Kaplan was a friend and confidante of very long standing. He made the best of his last years, and by his courage won my increased admiration, if that were possible.

I regarded him as clearly the leading all-round authority on bridge – certainly in his own times. In earlier days, Sidney Lenz and Ely Culbertson would no doubt have been contenders. Other great figures, such as Charles Goren and Oswald Jacoby, were perhaps not quite so many-sided.

Edgar was top-flight as a player, writer and editor, theorist, organizer and vugraph commentator. He was also an authority par excellence on the Laws and Proprieties. Who can rival that?

I first met Edgar as a doughty adversary when he coached the U.S. squad at the 1964 World Team Olympiad in New York. What impressed me then was not any of the qualities I have mentioned, rather, it was his flair for taking either side in a controversy and arguing a convincing case. He would have made a wonderful lawyer. Fortunately for the game of bridge, it was our world he elected to inhabit.

When Alphonse (Sonny) Moyses, in some eyes the greatest magazine editor of all, retired not long before his death in 1973, he sold Edgar the proprietorship of his beloved *The Bridge World*. It is not widely appreciated that this was a great compliment. There were other publishers with larger purses who were after the magazine and who might have outbid Edgar, but Sonny wanted a successor who would uphold his own vision of independence, integrity and fierce love of the game. Edgar did just that.

After 1976, the year in which I began my ten years as president of the World Bridge Federation, Edgar and I worked more and more together. He helped me through some difficult controversies, confirming the view that I had formed in 1964 - that we were ad idem on the thorny ethical issues that then faced the WBF. During this period we were very close.

Farewell, Edgar. For all your fine intellect, it is as a friend that I shall most remember you.

## Bermuda Bowl - Program

Round 1	11h00	Round 2	14h30	Round 3	18h00
1. USA I	- USA II	1. India	- USA I	1. USA I	- Canada
2. India	- Australia	2. Poland	- USA II	2. USA II	- India
3. Canada	- South Africa	3. Australia	- Canada	3. Denmark	- Australia
4. Denmark	- France	4. South Africa	- Denmark	4. China	- South Africa
5. China	- New Zealand	5. France	- China	5. Brazil	- France
6. Brazil	- Chinese Taipei	6. New Zealand	- Brazil	6. Tunisia	- New Zealand
7. Tunisia	- Norway	7. Chinese Taipei	- Tunisia	7. Chile	- Chinese Taipei
8. Chile	- Venezuela	8. Norway	- Chile	8. Italy	- Norway
9. Italy	- Poland	9. Venezuela	- Italy	9. Venezuela	- Poland

## Venice Cup - Program

Round 1	11h00	Round 2	14h30	Round 3	18h00
10. France	- Chinese Taipei	10. Australia	- France	10. France	- India
11. Australia	- Canada	11. Germany	- Chinese Taipei	11. Chinese Taipei	- Australia
12. India	- Brazil	12. Canada	- India	12. Colombia	- Canada
13. Colombia	- Netherlands	13. Brazil	- Colombia	13. China	- Brazil
14. China	- New Zealand	14. Netherlands	- China	14. Great Britain	- Netherlands
15. Great Britain	- Tunisia	15. New Zealand	- Great Britain	15. USA I	- New Zealand
16. USA I	- USA II	16. Tunisia	- USA I	16. South Africa	- Tunisia
17. South Africa	- Italy	17. USA II	- South Africa	17. Argentina	- USA II
18. Argentina	- Germany	18. Italy	- Argentina	18. Italy	- Germany

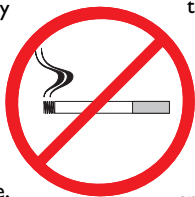
## Smoking in Hammamet

The tournament is normally non-smoking, unless if, by special agreement of the concerned players at a table, the tournament director is requested to allow it. The tournament director will, however, be entitled to forbid smoking if the room becomes too smoky. On submitting their lineups, team captains

will be requested to add an S to the names of the smoking players. No cigars or pipes. Only players are allowed to smoke.

The same smoking policy will apply next year at the World Championships in Lille, France.

From 1999, all WBF events will be non-smoking.



## The Championships on Internet

Following the tradition initiated last year in Rhodes, this Championship is heavily involved in the Internet. First of all, there is practically instant coverage of the **results** which are posted moments after they become official.

The **Daily Bulletins** are made available as soon as they are finalised in the early hours, that is, well before they have been printed and distributed here in Hammamet. Three versions are offered:

- The *Internet* version: this includes the most important articles in a format especially adopted for the Web - some complexities of the printed bulletin are missing but, unlike the latter, colour is included. Readers may see this version on their monitors and print parts or the whole bulletin on their printers.
- The *Postscript* version: this gives the exact picture of the Daily Bulletin as you read it in Hammamet. It has the disadvantage that it requires long download times (as the file size is large) and special Postscript printers or software interpreters to print.
- The *PDF* version: this gives almost the exact picture of the Daily Bulletin. The files (and therefore the downloading times) are significantly smaller than the postscript version. It appears on the reader's monitor formatted as the hard copy distributed in Hammamet and can be printed on any printer. However, it requires the Acrobat Reader, a special piece of software which is available free of charge from Adobe Inc.

All computers installed in the Press Room, the Daily Bulletin room, etc., are linked through a local network. The entire material of the **WBF Web Server** (around 500 pages) is available on this network, also called an Intranet. You are free to browse through it.

Vugraph matches can be watched on line at the *Bridge Plaza* Web Site at [www.bridgeplaza.com](http://www.bridgeplaza.com)

Last but not least, once again there is an email service available to everybody at these Championships. Whether you have your account at home or not, you can receive send and receive email here.

**Panos Gerontopoulos**  
WBF Internet Officer

WBF Server addresses: [www.bridge.gr](http://www.bridge.gr) or [www I.bridge.gr](http://www I.bridge.gr)

Email address: [bridge@tunisia.com.tn](mailto:bridge@tunisia.com.tn)

### VUGRAPH

Bermuda Bowl - Round 1 11h00

**USA I - USA II**

Bermuda Bowl - Round 2 14h30

**Australia - Canada**

Bermuda Bowl - Round 3 18h00

**Brazil - France**

# North America sweeps Marlboro China Cup

North America won both the Open Teams and the Women's Teams in the second annual Marlboro China Cup International Championships, which were held in Chengdu, China, Sept. 1-7.

In the Open the winners were Boris Baran, George Mittelman and Mark Molson of Canada plus Peter Boyd, Steve Robinson and Peter Nagy of the United States. The World Stars, made up of star players from Indonesia and Chinese Taipei, finished second, only four Victory Points behind. China won a tie break to finish third ahead of Europe, a team of internationalists from Poland.

Four members of North America's champions in the Women's Teams were defending champions – Kathie Wei-Sender, Sue Sachs, Lynn Deas and Juanita Chambers. Two players were added this year – Irina Levitina and Stasha Cohen.

Last at the halfway point, the Americans came on like gangbusters and roared to a resounding victory over runner-up Europe, made up of Danish, German and French stars. China finished third ahead of the World Stars, the Egyptian team that won the Asia-Middle East-Africa championship recently.

In the Open Pairs the victors were Sun Ming and Lu Yan, members of China's national women's team. Patrick Huang and Chekung Kuo of Chinese Taipei were second in the 32-pair field that was played barometer style and scored on across-the-field IMPs.

## Open Teams

The vugraph room was crowded and thousands more fans throughout China were glued to their television sets as the final matches were played.

Boyd found the key to defeating 4♥ on this deal from the final match.

Board 24. Love All. Dealer West.

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

West	North	East	South
Boyd	Xiaoqing	Robinson	Zhong
1♦	2♥	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Robinson led a diamond, and declarer won and led a trump, rising with the king to hold the trick. After ruffing a diamond, Xiaoqing led a club. Boyd took his queen, started to lead a diamond, then stopped to think things over. Declarer hadn't continued drawing trumps – there had to be a reason. Maybe he's missing some top hearts. "If I can score a ruff with my ace, maybe we can beat this contract," he thought. To set this up, he returned the ♠K to dummy's ace. Now there was no way for declarer to get back to his hand to lead a second trump. He tried spades, leading the ace, king and queen. But Boyd, the defender with the doubleton, ruffed with his ace. Robinson still had to get his queen and jack of trumps to defeat the contract one trick.

At first glance, it appears that a spade return would obtain the same result, but that's not true. If Boyd returned his low spade, declarer would have no choice

but to put up the nine and hope – and of course the nine would give him access to his hand to lead a trump.

China, tied with North America and the World Stars with five boards to go, saw their hopes disappear on Board 28.

Board 28. North/South Game. Dealer West.

	♠ A 4		
	♥ Q J 7 2		
	♦ 10		
	♣ Q 9 7 6 5 2		
♠ J 8 7		♠ K 10 9 6 3 2	
♥ A K 9 6 4 3		♥ 10 5	
♦ A K J 4		♦ 5 3 2	
♣ –		♣ J	
	♠ Q 5		
	♥ 8		
	♦ Q 9 8 7 6		
	♣ A 10 8 4 3		

West	North	East	South
Xing	Molson	Weimin	Baran
1♥	Pass	1♠	INT
Dbl	3♣	3♠	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

Baran led the ♠A and was not happy to see the void in dummy. Weimin immediately led a trump, and his play would determine the Open Teams winner. He made the percentage play – he let the ♠J ride; down one.

But if he had gone up with the king and led a second spade he was going to score his slam, even with the 4-1 heart break. There are enough entries to ruff two hearts and then get back to cash the long hearts. Or there's the diamond finesse, which also works. In the Open Room, the North Americans made exactly 4♠ for a 10-IMP pickup.

## Women's Teams

Deas and Chambers made spot cards pay off big in their final match. Here's one instance.

Love All. Dealer South.

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

West	North	East	South
Chambers		Deas	
1♥	1♠	Pass	1♣
All Pass			INT

Chambers decided to lead a diamond, and she carefully chose the 8 to avoid later possible blockage – a crucial move. Deas took her king and led back a heart to Chambers' jack. Now Chambers was able to cash two top diamonds – and she still had the 6 to get to Deas' hand with the 7. Deas then led a second heart through, and declarer found herself down one before she gained the lead.

The overall performance by Deas bordered on the incredible. Suffering from myasthenia gravis (a muscle

disorder), she was confined to a wheelchair and had limited strength and endurance. Despite this, she competed in her share of the matches, still playing at the level that has earned her several world championships.

## Open Pairs

Almost everyone went down in 6♠ on Board 24 in the second session of the Open Pairs – but not Patrick Huang.

Board 24. Love All. Dealer West.

	♠ A K 10 3		
	♥ K 5		
	♦ 6		
	♣ J 9 8 7 6 3		
♠ 9 8		♠ 5 2	
♥ J 9 7 3 2		♥ A Q 8 6 4	
♦ 10 9 8 7 4 2		♦ J 5 3	
♣ –		♣ Q 10 2	
	♠ Q J 7 6 4		
	♥ 10		
	♦ A K Q		
	♣ A K 5 4		

West	North	East	South
	Kuo		Huang
Pass	1♣	1♥	1♠
4♥	4♠	Pass	4NT
5♥	Pass	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

When the dummy goes down, the contract looks easy – all you need is a 2-1 break in clubs. When Huang put up the king on the opening heart lead, East won the ace and fired back a diamond. Huang drew two rounds of trumps and ran his diamonds. He found it interesting that West followed to two spades and apparently had several diamonds – East dropped the jack on the third round. Why was West willing to bid so high with just about no high cards and two spades? "Of course! He must be void in clubs!" thought Huang. So he went to the board with a trump and called for the ♠J. East didn't cover – although he flickered – and Huang let it ride; plus 980 for 14 IMPs.

## Final standings

	VPs	IMPs for	IMPs against
<b>Open Teams</b>			
1. North America	95	359	331
2. World Stars	91	361	358
3. China	87	361	376
= Europe	87	361	377

## Women's Teams

	VPs	IMPs for	IMPs against
1. North America	105	464	372
2. Europe	93	402	386
3. China	91	448	437
4. World Stars	71	339	458

## Open Pairs

1. Sun Ming – Lu Yan, China	1749.78
2. Patrick Huang – Chekung Kuo, Chinese Taipei	1397.07
3. Sun Shanlin – Liu Chuan, China	1374.36
4. Xu Hongjun – Zhuang Zejun, China	1283.79
5. Stasha Cohen – Irina Levitina, United States	1137.21
6. Gu Ling – Zhang Yalan, China	1017.14
7. Ju Chuancheng – Shi Maio, China	997.00
8. Juanita Chambers – Lynn Deas, United States	971.07

# Edgar Kaplan

1925-1997

Edgar Kaplan, a true giant in the bridge world and a man whose legacy to the game is surely incalculable, died on Sept. 7th at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City after a 2½-year battle against cancer. He was 72.

Kaplan's career spanned six decades and covered every aspect of bridge. He was a teacher, author, editor, administrator, champion player, theorist, expert vugraph commentator, coach/captain and the authority on the laws of the game.

"He was an icon," said Bobby Wolff, former ACBL and World Bridge Federation President and a longtime friend. "Edgar did everything. He was really the guru." Said ACBL President Howard Pilch: "Edgar's death is a great loss to the entire bridge world. We all speak of our families but to Edgar the bridge world was his family. He was both the firm parent and the warm, friendly uncle. A sense of honor and decency pervaded everything he did. His contributions as a player – and they are quite considerable – are the smallest part of what he has given us. We are all blessed for having known him."

Kaplan, born in New York City, learned bridge before he was ten by watching his parents play. He continued to play during his school years, including a brief time at Cornell University. After a stint with the U.S. Army Air Force in the forties, Kaplan returned home and went into the dress manufacturing business with his father. When Kaplan's father announced his retirement a few years later, Kaplan left the dress business to become a partner in the Card School of New York.

It didn't take long for Kaplan to establish himself as a player. He won the first of his 26 North American championships – the Vanderbilt Knockout Teams – in 1953. He won major championships in every decade from that point, including the Open Swiss Teams at the 1997 Spring NABC in Dallas. Although suffering from cancer and the effects of chemotherapy, Kaplan played

seven of eight matches in the final of the event.

He also competed in the International Team Trials in New Orleans in June of this year and in the Spingold Knockout Teams during the Summer NABC in Albuquerque.

"Edgar never lost his ability to play top-level bridge," said Wolff, "and he did it without gimmicks." Kaplan was an ACBL Grand Life Master with more than 13,500 masterpoints.

Kaplan's one disappointment was that he never won a world championship. In fact, many observers believe him to be the best player never to win a world title. Kaplan's highest finish in international competition was second, in the 1968 World Team Olympiad. However, he earned a world championship in 1995 in Beijing, China – he was the non-playing captain of the American team that won the Bermuda Bowl.

Expert play was but one aspect of Kaplan's legendary bridge prowess. With Alfred Sheinwold, who died in March, Kaplan created the Kaplan-Sheinwold bidding system, still in use by many players. In 1967 he became editor and publisher of *The Bridge World*, which will continue to be published despite his death.

Kaplan was recognized as the world's foremost authority on the laws of duplicate and rubber bridge. He became co-chairman of the ACBL Laws Commission in 1978 and was co-chairman of the WBF Laws Commission at the time of his death.

His influence in appeals hearings was monumental. Said Wolff: "No one could come close to competing with him because of his knowledge of the English language, and he would have been an absolutely wonderful lawyer. He was soft when he needed to be, hard when he needed to be, and he could deal with four different people four different ways."

Kaplan was honored at many levels and by many organizations. In 1979 he was selected as the Bridge Personality of the Year by the International Bridge Press Association. He was named ACBL Honorary Member in 1993. In 1995 he was inducted into the ACBL Bridge Hall of Fame and the WBF Hall of Fame.

Early in his career, he taught the game at his card school and wrote several books on bridge. He was also a member of the ACBL Board of Directors for many years.

Beyond all of Kaplan's other accomplishments, what made him the idol of the masses was his peerless work as a vugraph commentator. His dry wit and flawless timing kept vugraph audiences enthralled around the world. He was droll without being aloof and projected a deep knowledge of the game without being pedantic. "Edgar was the best ever on vugraph," said Wolff.

Even after he learned that cancer had invaded his body, Kaplan maintained his sense of humor and an optimistic outlook. In an interview published in *The Bridge Bulletin* last year, Kaplan noted that the various honors being accorded him were being given "as if they'd better hurry. But I intend to fool them. I intend to stick around."

For another year and a half, Kaplan fought valiantly. He amazed all observers by traveling to Rhodes, Greece, for the World Team Olympiad in the fall of 1996. He had also hoped to make it to Hammamet for the Bermuda Bowl.

Kaplan enjoyed most of his success as a player with Norman Kay, a fast friend for 50 years. Said Kay: "It is difficult for my wife Judy and me to envision life without Edgar, but our cherished memories of his delightful humor, lightning wit, articulate deliverance and great reserve, yet underlying warmth, must sustain us all in the days ahead."

# Ron Andersen

1941-1997

Ron Andersen of Chicago, chief vugraph commentator at world, American and European events, died in June of kidney failure and other complications.

Ron handled the vugraph commentary during the early days of the European Championships in Montecatini, Italy, but his health took a turn for the worse at the end of the first week, and he was hospitalized locally. When attempts to stem the kidney failure did not succeed he was flown back to Chicago, and he died shortly after returning to the United States.

Ron, one of the most successful bridge players in the world, in recent years had concentrated his efforts in other areas of bridge, primarily commentating. He began as a commentator at American events, and his highly entertaining manner made him an instant sensation. In addition to commentating, he also looked into all other aspects of American vugraph. As a result of his efforts and suggestions, American vugraph shows have made incredible progress over the past few years.

Word of his exceptional ability reached world officials, and he became part of the WBF commentating team, providing an excellent foil for Edgar Kaplan.

The European Bridge League, aware of Ron's talents, brought Ron to Killarney in 1991, where he did such an outstanding job that he was invited to be the chief commentator at all subsequent European championships.

Despite all his work as a commentator, Andersen still managed to win the Barry Crane Top 500 race in the American Contract Bridge League last year. He had

won this title four times before, more than any other living player. He was also the first player in history to win more than 2000 masterpoints in a single year. This Top 500 award is given to the player who earns the most masterpoints during the course of the year.

During his lifetime, Ron tallied the second most masterpoints in the history of the ACBL. Only his close friend, Paul Soloway, a competitor here in the Bermuda Bowl, has earned more points.

Ron was a World Master and an American Grand Master. His playing accomplishments are legion. He won many North American championships, including the Spingold Teams three times, the Reisinger Teams twice, the Life Master Men's Teams, the Blue Ribbon Pairs, the Life Master Pairs, the Mixed Teams, the Men's Swiss Teams and the Men's Teams.

He never won a world championship, but he tied for fifth in the World Team Olympiad in Seattle in 1984 and also had a couple of high finishes in the World Open Pairs. He was coach and acting captain of the American women's team that placed second in the Venice Cup in Rye, New York, in 1981. He also captained and coached one of the American women's teams in the 1991 Venice Cup championship in Yokohama, Japan. That team reached the quarterfinals before bowing out.

In 1981 Ron played in the first international bridge tournament ever held in mainland China – it took place in Shanghai. He also delivered a lecture at Chinese University in Shanghai with translation help from

Kathie Wei-Sender, a many-time world champion in her own right and a competitor in the Venice Cup here.

But his accomplishments don't end there – far from it. He was a major contributor to the literature of bridge. He was editor-in-chief of the Championship Bridge Series, and he wrote two of the books in the series – *Killing Their Notrump* and *Matchpoint Tactics*. He authored four books on the Precision system as well as *Where and How High* and *Lebensohl*. He has been a co-author of many other works, including *Preempts from A to Z* (in cooperation with Sabine Auken, who is a competitor in these championships), *Making the Most of Your Limited Opening Bids*, *Profits from Preempts*, *Perfect Your No trump Bidding and Action for the Defense*.

At the bridge table, Ron was a fierce competitor, always fully aware of what was happening around him and always on the lookout for any edge he could find that would increase the possibility of victory. If he thought he was right, he had no hesitation in bringing situations to the attention of appeals committees.

His desire to put on an entertaining vugraph show was overwhelming. He would spend many hours in preparation, learning as much as possible about the participants, seeking anecdotes to spice up his presentation, and selecting assistants who would help him produce the best possible show.

Ron was a major factor in many areas of the bridge world, and he will be sorely missed.

# I'm proud to play for America, but I'm still a Pakistani – Zia



Zia has represented his native Pakistan with great dignity and unsurpassed ability on many occasions. Twice he led Pakistan to incredible heights – second place in the Bermuda Bowl in Westchester, New York, in 1981 and second place in the Rosenblum Teams in Miami Beach in 1986.

This time it's different – Zia is representing the United States in the Bermuda Bowl. "But I am still a Pakistani, not an American," he said as he relaxed by the pool here in Hammamet. "I am proud and happy to be representing America, but my Pakistani identity is in no way submerged. I feel like a Pakistani who is living in America and playing for America."

To prove his point, Zia asked that we be sure to see how his American team comes to the table for the opening match. "Our whole team will be dressed in Pakistani outfits. I consider this to be a noble and warm gesture on the part of my American teammates. I feel that my whole team is Pakistani at heart."

Of course Zia will be ecstatic if his team wins the Bermuda Bowl – but he's not at all sure it will be the biggest bridge thrill of his life. "It's one thing if you win a world championship surrounded by some of the best players in the world. It's something else again to place second in the Bermuda Bowl and the Rosenblum Teams with a motley group of pirates – my courageous countrymen – who made up for their lack of experience and ability with their intense desire to play like champions against the best the world had to offer."

For his part, Zia is happy to be in a country like the United States – a country that "opens its arms to the whole world. It's a major part of the American heritage that this country acts as a cauldron for persons from all nations of the world. Because of this heritage, Pakistan can benefit greatly from my appearance on an American team – a win with me on the team will be a huge boost for Pakistan."

Does all this mean that Zia will never again play for Pakistan? No way! "The time may come when I return home and lead Pakistan into the world championships again."

As for the Bermuda Bowl competition, Zia believes this is the strongest field ever to compete in this event. "This field is so strong that it is premature to think about winning. Our focus is on qualifying – I don't want to go home a week early."

It goes without saying that Zia believes the two American teams are strong contenders here. "Then there's Italy – they've been winning everything in sight. And France, winner of the Olympiad last year, is strong

again. The other European teams also figure to be formidable.

"And don't ever count Brazil out of the picture. My gut feeling is that Brazil has returned to the heights it achieved a few years ago.

"I haven't played against the Far East teams recently, but they must be very good. It has to mean something when Indonesia, a finalist in last year's Olympiad, couldn't finish in the top two in their own Far East zone. I always have had respect for Patrick Huang and his Chinese Taipei team, and it certainly appears that China is making its mark in the bridge world.

"Only eight teams will qualify for knockout play. It's going to be a real dogfight."

There's one thing Zia would change if he were in charge of the world championships. "I would reduce the number of systems and conventions everybody could play. Maybe just Stayman and Blackwood would be enough. Then I could be looking at all the beautiful girls in the pool instead of studying defense here with Michael (Michael Rosenberg, his partner)."

Zia realizes that bridge has not done all that well in promoting the game as a spectator sport. "But I think computers can make the difference. We have already reached the point where players all over the world can follow a major tournament by bringing the game up on the Internet. We have just started in this area, and it should get better and better as we learn more about how to do things. Watching bridge on the computer may be the answer to increasing the popularity of our game."

## President declares Games open



All the competitors and officials gathered last night at the Royal Azur for the official opening of the 33rd Bermuda Bowl, 11th Venice Cup and first Transnational Open Teams. World Bridge Federation President Jose Damiani declared the Games open as the WBF flag was raised.

The opening ceremony began with the Tunisian national anthem as the Tunisian flag was raised. Mazhar Jafri, WBF vice president and president of Zone 4 (Asia, the Middle East and Africa) welcomed everyone to the first world championship ever hosted by Zone 4. "It is a great honour for Zone 4 to be host to such a major event," said Jafri. He personally thanked President Emeritus Jaime Ortiz-Patino for being present for this special occasion.

Jafri also spoke about the position of bridge as far as the Olympics are concerned. "As you may all be aware, in recent times great strides have been made by the WBF toward the future well-being of bridge. The most outstanding achievement is, of course, the recognition of

the WBF and bridge by the International Olympic Committee in 1995. Now the WBF is an integral part of the Olympic movement and all bridge players are members of the Olympic family.

"In this perspective, the WBF, as well as the bridge players participating in its world championships, are now committed to adhere to the fundamental principles of Olympism enshrined in the Olympic Charter of IOC. Let us all strive to attain them and practice them in these championships. Olympism is a philosophy of life, exalting and combining in a balanced whole the quality of body, will and mind. Blending sport with culture and education, Olympism seeks to create a way of life based on the joy found in the effort, the educational value of good example and respect for universal fundamental ethical principles."

Anna Maria Torlontano introduced Bill Schoder, chief tournament director. Schoder in turn introduced all the teams competing in both the Venice Cup and the Bermuda Bowl.

## Editorial Predictions

In time honoured fashion, your editorial team put their heads on the block with the following predictions for the eight qualifiers in each series. We make no attempt to place the qualifiers in ranking order – it was tough enough narrowing them down to eight, particularly in what is the strongest Bermuda Bowl field we can remember.

### Bermuda Bowl

Henry Francis	Dorothy Francis	Mark Horton	Brian Senior
Brazil	Brazil	Brazil	Brazil
China	China	Denmark	China
Chinese Taipei	Chinese Taipei	France	Denmark
France	Denmark	Italy	France
Italy	France	Norway	Italy
Norway	Italy	Poland	Norway
USA 1	USA 1	USA 1	USA 1
USA 2	USA 2	USA 2	USA 2

Barry Rigal was going to add his predictions to the list until he realised that they were identical to Mark's, and therefore clearly incorrect.

To save you working it out, all four staff members predict Brazil, France, Italy, USA 1 and USA 2.

### Venice Cup

Henry Francis	Dorothy Francis	Mark Horton	Brian Senior
Australia	Australia	Canada	Canada
Canada	Canada	China	China
China	China	France	France
France	France	Germany	Germany
Germany	Germany	Great Britain	Great Britain
Great Britain	Netherlands	Netherlands	Italy
USA 1	USA 1	USA 1	USA 1
USA 2	USA 2	USA 2	USA 2

This time the staff are unanimous on Canada, China, France, Germany, USA 1 and USA 2.



# The New Laws of Bridge, 1997

by Ton Kooijman (Netherlands)

**T**hese are the first major Championships to be staged following the changes in the Laws. Operations Director Ton Kooijman explains the most important changes.

Once in every ten to twelve years, the laws of duplicate bridge are renewed, taking into consideration all kinds of developments in our more and more complicated world of bridge. After 1975 and 1987, this year will be another one for a new edition. As a member of the WBF laws Committee (Bill Schroder is also a member), I am involved in the critical decisions. And this seems to be a good opportunity to inform you about the main issues, which I will do in a series of articles starting today.

There are two changes of general impact in the laws, one dealing with withdrawn information given by the offending side, and one with irregularities not easily covered by specific laws.

Suppose a pair caused an infraction by making a call out of turn or an insufficient bid, or by showing a card (or cards) they were not going to play to that trick, or anything similar involving a withdrawn call or card. Up until this moment, they were allowed to use that information after having paid the penalty for the infraction, which is normally imposed when the TD applies the laws.

For example: West is the dealer but North opens two spades out of turn, showing 8-11 points with five spades and a five card minor. East does not accept the bid, and now West opens one heart. The penalty under the new laws is that South must pass once.

The auction continues:

West	North	East	South
1♥	1♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	2♥	?

The '87 laws allow South to bid three clubs with 4-4 in the minors, looking for a partscore and knowing his partner has a minor, which he did not show with his legal bid.

The '97 laws do not allow South to bid three clubs. He has to consider one spade as a normal overcall and may not use extraneous information.

This example gives the impression that the change is easy to apply and a reasonable one. I think that to be true for an auction after withdrawn calls, but problems arise when we enter the play of the cards. In the example above, when West becomes the declarer in two hearts, there are lead penalties. However, after applying those, South may not use the information that North has a minor.

The position for the non-offending side is unchanged – they may use the information.

Here is another example from an IMP event:

East/West Game. Dealer South.

♠ 10 8 6 5											
♥ K 7											
♦ A J 8 2											
♣ K J 10											
♠ K Q 4		♠ A J 9 7 2									
♥ J 10 9 6 5		♥ A Q 4 2									
♦ 7 5		♦ 10									
♣ 6 3 2		♣ 9 5 4									
	<table border="1" style="text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ 3										
	♥ 8 3										
	♦ K Q 9 6 4 3										
	♣ A Q 8 7										

South is the dealer, but East opens out of turn with one spade. South does not accept it, and the auction

continues uncontested to five diamonds by South, who has shown 6-4 in the minors. South demands a spade lead, so West lays down the king. After that, he switches to the jack of hearts; one down.

South calls the TD, telling him that West used the information that East had a five card suit and therefore found the switch. West defends himself by saying that South will always make five diamonds when he has the ace of hearts, so the only way to defeat the contract was to switch to a heart.

In the '87 version, West was allowed to switch to hearts, after paying the penalty of an obliged spade lead. In the '97 laws, the TD, and probably the Appeals Committee, has to decide whether or not the switch was an obvious one. (In this example East would probably drop the jack of spades under the king, clearly a suit preference signal, but it will not always be so simple.)

The treatment of a penalty card is also influenced by this change. From now on, the only information partner may use is the fact that the penalty card has to be played at the first legal opportunity; all other inferences are forbidden. As a result of this change, we may expect some nice new cases for Appeals Committees in the future.

The second fundamental change deals with a principle that could be found in some laws already on the statute books, but which now become a general approach. If a player causing an infraction could have known at the time that he might gain by it, the TD has to adjust the score, taking away the advantage.

Edgar Kaplan has a nice example in which dummy has ♣AKQJ84 without any other possible entry, and declarer is void in that suit and still wants to make his six no trump contract. Somewhat 'confused', he plays the ace from the table at trick two and his RHO sleepily follows suit. Now South manages to win all thirteen tricks. There is certainly reason to adjust the score under the new laws (as we did under the old ones, but nobody could say which law allowed us to do so).

Now I will concentrate on some technical changes that are important for bridge players. They should know about them for their daily practice.

In my country it has always been difficult to get full disclosure of the bidding by one's opponents if one wanted to know more than just the meaning of a bid made. Let us say that the auction goes 1♣-1♥-Dble (negative) and you see on the convention card that in the sequence 1♣-1♥-1♠, the last bid can be made on a four card spade suit. Not everybody was happy when you wanted to know the difference between the two possibilities. From now on Law 20 allows you to ask questions about relevant calls that are not actually made. And players answering questions should be very liberal in their interpretation of the word 'relevant' here.

Law 25 has been changed in three ways. If a player makes a call he did not intend to make (an inadvertent call), he is allowed to change it as long as partner does not make a call thereafter. This is rarely a problem when calls are made vocally, but a regular problem when using bidding boxes. If LHO has made a call already, he may take it back and the information arising from this withdrawn call is not available for the pair causing the irregularity.

If a player wants to change a call he has deliberately made, he may call the TD, who allows him to do so. But there is a restriction. Such a pair will not get more than average-minus on this board (40% in pairs, minus three IMPs in teams), and the opponents keep their actual result. So, the score on this board can be 40% for one side and a zero for the other side. (With screens this problem is not treated in the same way.)

You probably remember that an insufficient bid could be changed without penalty if it was meant to have a

natural meaning and made sufficient in the same denomination at the lowest level. If the auction went INT-1♦ (natural, not seeing the opening bid), the player was allowed to bid two diamonds and to continue normally. From now on both bids, the insufficient and the sufficient, need to have a natural meaning. If in this example two diamonds would show, say, a six-card major, you had better not correct one diamond to two diamonds as partner will be obliged to pass for the rest of the auction.

What was common practice in International championships already, but not covered by the laws, is now written down in Law 40. If you are playing against some complicated system, the organising committee may allow you to use a written defence. Put it on a piece of paper and use it at your turn to call.

Apart from the ACBL and some neighbours, we are not allowed to ask partner about a possible revoke. If we do and he did revoke, the revoke is considered to be established and the usual penalty applied. From now on, the penalty is even more severe. In such a case partner has to play a legal card (following suit) and the first card becomes a penalty card. And the revoke penalty still applies.

Finally I would like to deal with changes primarily of interest for tournament directors. Before starting, I should make it clear that I have not covered all the changes: some minor ones have not been mentioned.

The definition of a session has been changed. From now on, the organising committee has to define what it considers to be a session. This is important for artificial adjusted scores that might change depending on the duration of a session.

Since nobody seems to deal cards clockwise, the obligation to do so has been changed in a recommendation. Personally, I hope that everybody doing it right at the moment will continue that habit.

Before '97, the TD had to give an adjusted score when somebody with more than or fewer than thirteen cards made a call. From now on, he may decide to let the board be played if he deems the wrongly placed card not to be an important one. But he needs the co-operation of the players for that.

From now on, the bidding period for a pair starts as soon as one of the players of that pair looks at his cards. Law 23B has been removed; the new general law now covers the problem it was meant for.

When a player makes a call at his RHO's turn to call, which is not accepted, and his legal call thereafter shows the same denomination(s) (instead of naming the same denomination, as it has been until now), the offender's partner has to pass once.

An opening lead, face up or face down, may not be retracted as soon as one or more cards from dummy are visible.

If both defenders find an opening lead, one face down and the other face up, the latter is treated as the lead. This brings us an interesting question. If the open card is from RHO, declarer has the option not to accept it. If he now allows the LHO to lead a card of his choice, should that be the face down card? I think it should. Which means that the TD should not allow LHO to take back his lead out of turn before declarer has made his choice among the many options he has. I am interested in other opinions in this matter.

If there is a revoke at trick 12 by a defender when his partner did not yet play to that trick, the declarer may not force him to play a card he never would have played.

The laws become more human to players with bridge problems. They should strive for a steady tempo, but may vary if really necessary. Of course, partner may not use information arising from a pause for thought.

# The 43rd Generali European Championships

## Montecatini 1997

The 1997 European Championships were the biggest yet with 35 teams in the Open series, 24 in the Women, and 158 pairs in the Women's Pairs.

Winners of the Women's Championship were Great Britain, for the first time since 1981, with France and Israel taking the silver and bronze medals respectively. Great Britain and France are joined by Germany, the Venice Cup holders, and the Netherlands, here in Hammamet. Also, Italy have replaced Israel who, unfortunately, couldn't make it to these championships.

The Open series saw Italy retain the title they had won two years earlier in Vilamoura, leading almost throughout the event. The silver medal went to Poland and the bronze to Norway. Denmark and France complete the European representation in Hammamet.

Midway through the championship, the Italian champions to be met second placed Spain on vugraph. Spain, who are a much improved team in recent years, were to hold down a qualifying place for most of the tournament, fading only in the last couple of days. The match featured some of the most interesting bridge of the championships, including:

Board 12. East/West Game. Dealer West.

♠ 10 7 5											
♥ A 7 4											
♦ 7 5 3											
♣ 10 8 5 3											
♠ 8 6 3 2		♠ K Q J									
♥ J 9 5		♥ 8 6 3									
♦ A 9		♦ K J 10 2									
♣ K 9 7 2		♣ J 6 4									
	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N		E	W				S		
N		E									
W											
	S										
		♠ A 9 4									
		♥ K Q 10 2									
		♦ Q 8 6 4									
		♣ A Q									

Lanzarotti opened 1♣ on the South cards and rebid INT over Buratti's 1♠ response, while Lanteron opened INT. Both played there on a spade lead.

Lanzarotti ducked the opening lead but won the second spade and exited with a third round. Frances won and switched to ♦J, ducked, and a second diamond to the ace. Torres cashed the thirteenth spade, dummy pitching a club and Frances a heart. Declarer thought he had no legitimate line from here, perhaps, and threw ♣Q, hoping that West would play him for ♣AQJ and not switch to the suit. Now he could lead towards ♦Q for his seventh trick. But Torres made no mistake, switching to a low club, and Frances played low, leaving Lanzarotti no option but to cash out for one down; -50.

Lanteron did rather better in the other room, though it took the vugraph audience a long time to see that he was going to succeed. He won the third spade and exited with a low diamond, and Duboin was allowed to win the nine. He cashed the last spade - club, heart and diamond discard. Now Duboin cashed ♦A to avoid a later endplay, to the applause of the audience, and switched to a heart. Lanteron began to cash the hearts and it suddenly dawned on one or two of the watchers that the contract was destined to come home. What was East to pitch on the fourth heart? Obligated to keep ♦K, Bocchi had to throw a club and now Lanteron could play ace and queen of clubs, pinning the jack, and dummy's ten made the last trick. A nicely played +90 and 4 IMPs to Spain.

Board 20. Game All. Dealer West.

♠ J 8 6											
♥ K Q											
♦ A Q 6											
♣ J 10 8 4 3											
♠ K 9 4		♠ 7 5 2									
♥ A 6 3		♥ J 10 9 4									
♦ K 8 7		♦ 9 5 4 3 2									
♣ Q 9 7 6		♣ 5									
	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N		E	W				S		
N		E									
W											
	S										
		♠ A Q 10 3									
		♥ 8 7 5 2									
		♦ J 10									
		♣ A K 2									

Both Norths played 3NT but there was a crucial difference in the auctions. Lorenzo Lauria had opened 1♣ with the West cards as dealer while Jose Torres had passed. Both Easts led ♥J to the ace and the ♥6 was returned to the king. Now the paths diverged.

Bocchi led a spade to the queen at trick three and Torres ducked smoothly. Bocchi played three rounds of clubs and Torres won and switched to ♦8. Can Bocchi be blamed for rising with the ace and relying on the spade finesse? After all, that finesse had already scored once and to take the diamond finesse would only be correct when West had passed a 12-count and found this devilish defense. In fact, Frances had thrown sufficient spades on the clubs that Bocchi knew not to finesse again when he reached that point so he was only one down; -100.

Of course, Bocchi would probably have gone down even had Torres taken the first spade and led his last heart. He must discard twice from hand on the hearts and has to commit himself to either the diamond finesse or bringing in the clubs and is likely to plump for the latter, losing option.

Goded, who had seen Lauria open the bidding remember, tried a different line. At trick three he played a club to dummy then led a diamond. Lauria made life as awkward as he could by covering, leaving the suit blocked. Now Goded led a spade to the queen and Lauria took the king and led a heart. Declarer now had the communications to unravel the diamonds for nine tricks; +600 and 12 IMPs to Spain.

Suppose that Lauria ducks the spade. On the actual lie it is good enough to unblock the diamond and lead a low spade towards the jack. West can take the king and the defense takes its heart tricks but the ♠J is an entry to the diamond and the ♣K to the ♠A. But if clubs are 3-2 that is not good enough as East can play a club after cashing the hearts. Now declarer can either cash ♠A or ♦Q but not both and is one down. Instead, if the ♠Q scores declarer must play three rounds of clubs. Again the defense take their hearts but now declarer needs only two diamond tricks to go with two spades, four clubs and one heart so can overtake the jack with the queen to get to hand.

Board 21. North/South Game. Dealer North.

		♠ 6 2										
		♥ A J 7 6										
		♦ A K 10										
		♣ K 9 8 5										
♠ A Q J 3			♠ 9 4									
♥ 9			♥ Q 5 3 2									
♦ 9 6 3			♦ J 5 4 2									
♣ A Q 10 7 4			♣ J 6 2									
	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N		E	W				S			
N		E										
W												
	S											
		♠ K 10 8 7 5										
		♥ K 10 8 4										
		♦ Q 8 7										
		♣ 3										

West	North	East	South
Torres	Bocchi	Frances	Duboin
	INT	Pass	2♣
Dble	Rdbl	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

With three top losers and unfavourable breaks in both majors, 4♥ is doomed to fail. But the auction convinced Torres to try the ♠A and after this opening lead careful play saw Duboin home for a great +620.

West	North	East	South
Lauria	Goded	Versace	Lanteron
	1♣	Pass	1♥ <sup>(1)</sup>
Pass	INT	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

<sup>(1)</sup> Spades

With declarer having shown a spade suit, there would have been no temptation for Lauria to lead the ♠A so the Spanish pair did the best they could by stopping out of game, but even 3♥ proved to be too much when Lanteron misjudged the play. Lauria led a diamond and declarer won on table to play a spade to the king and ace. The diamond continuation was also won in dummy and a second spade played to the ten and queen. Lauria played a third diamond and Lanteron won and led ♠7, ruffing low when the three appeared.

Versace did well now, pitching a club. Lanteron was in the wrong hand and led a low club off the dummy. Versace went in with the jack and switched to a low trump for the nine and jack and declarer ruffed a club to hand and led another spade. When he again ruffed low, Versace could over-ruff and play another trump and the contract was one light; -100 and 12 IMPs to Italy.

While it was likely that West held ♥Q because Versace had been 'unable' to over-ruff earlier, the actual position was surely more likely than that West was now void in clubs as that would have given East ♣AQJ1062 and he might have bid at some point. That being the case, ruffing the spade high and playing to ruff a club with ♥10 would ensure the contract.

Board 23. Game All. Dealer South.

		♠ K 10 8										
		♥ 9 7 6										
		♦ Q 6 2										
		♣ A 9 3 2										
♠ 9 4			♠ A 6 5 3									
♥ A 8			♥ K Q 5 2									
♦ A K 7 5 3			♦ J 9									
♣ Q J 7 5			♣ K 8 4									
	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N		E	W				S			
N		E										
W												
	S											
		♠ Q J 7 2										
		♥ J 10 4 3										
		♦ 10 8 4										
		♣ 10 6										

Both East/West pairs had a free run to 3NT by East and both Duboin and Lanteron led ♠2 to the king. Frances and Versace both ducked two rounds of spades and won the third round to play ♠8 to the queen and ace. Perhaps North should duck the club but the position was awkward enough when he won and returned a low club.

Frances ran the club return to dummy's jack and played a third round to his king. Now his sights were clearly set on a squeeze as he exited with his last spade. Duboin won and in turn exited with a diamond to the ace. Frances cashed the other top diamond and would have been home if either defender had held four hearts along with ♥9 or sole guard of diamonds. When neither eventuality materialised, he had to concede one down; -100.

Versace won the club return in hand. The winning play now is to pass the ♦J to North but Versace tried the ♦9 instead. Lanteron was alert enough to cover with the ten, forcing Versace to win the ace. Now he cashed the other top diamond and Goded threw the queen, leaving Lanteron with the eight as an entry should declarer try to establish the suit. Versace now played four rounds of hearts, hoping to find North winning the fourth round and obliged to lead into dummy's ♣J7 at trick twelve (note the importance of unblocking ♠8 at trick four). But South had the long heart along with two more winners so Versace was two down; -200 and 3 IMPs to Spain.

A nicely played and defended hand but what if Versace, instead of cashing the hearts, had cashed dummy's ♣J? South would have been squeezed in the red suits to see the contract home.

The match ended in a 15-15 draw, satisfactory for both sides in the circumstances.

# A Vugraph Phrasebook

compiled by David Burn (Great Britain)

The following article has appeared before, but it has a timeless quality, and may be of considerable use to anyone who is visiting vugraph for the first time.

Following exhaustive research during these championships, we are pleased to offer as a service to our readers, a vugraph Phrasebook. Armed with this invaluable guide, you will be able to translate 'Vugraph Commentary' into English at all future tournaments. Versions in French and Italian will appear shortly.

- ☞ On the surface, declarer has four losers.
  - Declarer will make either eleven tricks or six.
- ☞ Here's something for the home fans to cheer about!
  - Until the operator enters the correction, the host nation appears to have made a partscore.
- ☞ Well, Erie, there should be no problem in the play here.
  - One down.
- ☞ We have the advantage of seeing all four hands.
  - We have the disadvantage of seeing all four hands.
- ☞ Declarer will ruff a heart and exit with a diamond.
  - Declarer will cash three rounds of spades and take a club finesse.
- ☞ The defence appear to be under a hand ride.
  - The compilers of this inestimable lexicon regret that they have absolutely no idea what this means. Neither does it sound as though they want to.
- ☞ Well, Billy, I'm still backing declarer.
  - Two down.
- ☞ Back to live action.
  - It will be at least five minutes before anyone in the Open Room plays a card.
- ☞ Let's take a look at the scores in the other matches.
  - The critical point of the hand on the screen has just been reached.
- ☞ Isn't there a possible three-loser strip squeeze on West?
  - No.

- ☞ Can't North just play a heart now?
  - West is on lead. Or East. Or South.
- ☞ East's one-heart opening looks a little thin on six points.
  - I have failed to notice West's forcing pass.
- ☞ Well, Brian, I think declarer still has a chance.
  - Three down.
- ☞ One diamond shows zero to eight, two clubs is 16 plus with hearts, and two spades is a transfer to clubs.
  - The compilers assure you that you do not want to know what this means. You really don't.
- ☞ Here they come, heads apart, pounding to the wire!
  - The score is 2 IMPs to 0 after three boards.
- ☞ It seems clear that everyone will pass now.
  - There are going to be another four rounds of bidding.
- ☞ The Norwegian lead has just been reduced to 6 IMPs.
  - The Norwegian lead has just been increased to 18 IMPs.
- ☞ This should develop into a real ding-dong battle.
  - Chemla has just failed to read a delicate suit-preference signal.
- ☞ Well, Jean-Paul, if the defenders slip, declarer could still get home.
  - Four down.
- ☞ It looks like everybody's four spades by North/South, doesn't it?
  - The contract will be three diamonds doubled by East.
- ☞ If the six and nine of spades were interchanged, and North had another diamond, then when East switches to a club, declarer would have the option of throwing West in to lead away from the king of hearts, which as we can all see she does not have.
  - In my opinion, the audience has been short of sleep recently.



## Maury Braunstein

1914-1997

Maury Braunstein, 83, a major director for the World Bridge Federation since 1973 and an ACBL national tournament director for 29 years, died at home in Schenectady NY on Sept. 19. He suffered a stroke after a long battle with lung cancer.

Braunstein had a tireless devotion to players' needs, an incredible wit and an incisive knowledge about anything that can happen at the bridge table.

In 1954 he gave up a promising career as a tournament player to become a tournament director. He never regretted that decision. He quickly rose to the top of his profession, becoming a national tournament director in 1968, right after he retired from his post as computer processing director for the State of New York.

His outstanding work came to the attention of the World Bridge Federation, and he was named the chief director for the Bermuda Bowl in Guarujá, Brazil, in 1973. From that point on he was either the head director or the chief assistant at all world championships until he retired from the WBF in 1988.

Maury was colorful. His bow ties were legendary, his bridge acumen superb, his quips witty. His extemporaneous remark to two priests sitting at table 7 who were playing too slowly may never be topped:

"Our fathers, who art at seven, hurried be thy game."

The first thing everyone looked for at a Braunstein tournament was his bow tie – he always wore one. Bow ties were big back in the sixties, but Maury continued wearing them right up to the day he died.

Maury retired as a tournament director on June 29 at the close of the Majestic Adirondack Sectional in Schenectady, New York. In August, when he was honored at his retirement party in Schenectady, everyone there wore a bow tie – even a couple of dogs. He was presented with a solid silver dish – and guess what was engraved on that dish? Right – a bow tie!

Maury was very special as a director. After the evening sessions he used to invite his assistants to his room for coffee or a drink – and instruction. He would talk about the Laws, movements, rulings, judgment, personalities, ethics. Then he would ask questions to make sure we were listening. With that kind of training, it's not surprising that all his regular assistants became either national or associate national directors for the American Contract Bridge League.

His knowledge of bridge movements was encyclopedic. He was the inventor of several movements for both pairs and individuals.

I worked about 40 tournaments a year with Maury for 15 years. It was an education and a pleasure. I remember the first time he was assigned as my assistant after being my boss for about 13 years. His first words: "What do you want me to do, boss?"

Maury leaves his wife Marion, his daughter Rae of New Zealand and five grandchildren. For many years Marion was an ACBL regional tournament director working alongside her husband.

Henry Francis

## The Italian Women's team

The Italian Women's team for the Venice Cup, which replaced the Israel team that withdrew, is made up of the following players: A. E. Rosetta, F. DeLucchi, Carla Gianardi, Laura Rovera, C. Golin and G. Oliveri.

## A Signal from 'Down Under'

The Captain of the Australian Venice Cup team is SMITH Peter.



## Vugraph arrangements

Throughout the round-robin phase of these championships, one match will be shown on vugraph during each of the 17 rounds. Of course the quarterfinals, semifinals and finals also will receive full vugraph coverage.

In addition, special arrangements have been made to have the results from all other matches delivered to the vugraph personnel. As a result, vugraph spectators will be able to keep up-to-date on all matches.

Jean-Paul Meyer of France will be the chief commentator here. Brian Senior and Mark Horton will be doing double duty, gathering material for the Daily Bulletin while commentating. Bill Eisenberg and Guido Ferraro round out the vugraph commentating staff.

Arrangements have been made to have the Closed Room begin play 10 minutes early and to have the Open Room start five minutes after starting time. This means that results from the Closed Room will be available as soon as the first deal in the Open Room is screened.