WBF WOMEN'S BRIDGE NEWSLETTER

Editor: Mary Kelly Rogers

August 2023

SPECIAL EDITION FOR VENICE CUP 2023

46th World Bridge Teams Championships
WORLD WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS
VENICE CUP
MARRAKECH 2023
20th August – 2nd September 2023

GOOD LUCK TO ALL VENICE CUP TEAMS

Chair Esther Sophonpanich and members of the WBF Women's Committee wish all the teams the very best for Venice Cup 2023

Dear All,

This Newsletter is to wish all the Venice Cup teams well for the championship and to acknowledge their great achievement. It also aims to encourage women across the globe to take an interest and follow the world's best by kibitzing online. The players' goals and achievements can be aspired to by all women as they make their own Bridge journey.

Mark Horton sets the scene for us with his piece 'Death in Venice' and Jill Meyers, who holds the all-time record of four-time winner of the Venice Cup, is interviewed. We wish Jill well as she goes for an awe-inspiring number five! Janice Seamon-Molson, World Champion, Professional and retired Administrator, gives an insight to her Bridge journey. Thank you to all three.

WBF Women's Festival BBO Online, the brainchild of Anna Maria Torlontano, has been in operation for many years and is growing in strength. Deborah Smith, New Zealand, is the winner of President Jan Kamras' prize of free entry with partner of choice, to the next WBF Transnational Women's Pairs. BBO was also very generous in its sponsorship. The Autumn Festival is November 6th to 12th.

We have an invite for you to play in an online WBF Women's teams on RealBridge in October and we ask you to show your interest.

Congratulations to a Venice Cup player, Liz McGowan, who was inducted into the EBL Hall of Fame in June.

It was not possible for all teams to contribute this time but you will find their profiles with photos on the next page.

Thank you to Contributors for allowing us to taste a little of the Venice Cup story for players of Venice Cup 2023. Without your input this Newsletter would not be possible.

Thank you!

Mary Kelly Rogers, Editor

WBF Women's Committee
Top L to R
Wang Yannan, Esther Sophonpanich(Chair), Aaida Abu Jabber
Centre
Helen Kruger, Anna Gudge
Bottom L to R
Suzi Subeck, Sevinç Atay, Mary Kelly Rogers

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David Harari – France
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VENICE CUP 24 TEAMS

DENMARK

Dor te Cilleborg BILDE	Danielle AVON	Annaig DELLA MONTA	Adi ASULIN
Lone BILDE	Veronique BESSIS	Ingrid GROMANN	Hila LEVI
Trine BILDE	Carole PUILLET	Susanne KRIFTNER	Adel PETELKO
Anita BUUS THOMSEN	Sabine ROLLAND	Mieke PLATH	Ziv ROITMAN
Charlotte KOCH-PALMUND	Martine ROSSARD	Gisela SMYKALLA	Dana TAL
Helle RASMUSSEN	Anne-Laure TARTARIN	Karin WENNING	Noga TAL
Maria DAM MORTENSEN NPC	Wilfried LIBBRECHT NPC	Kathryn HERZ NPC	Israel YADLIN NPC
Jan NIELSEN (Coach)		Eckhard BOHLKE (Coach)	

NORWAY

Ann Karin FUGLESTAD	Cathy BALDYSZ	Kathrine BERTHEAU	Asli ACAR
Liv Marit GRUDE	Sophia BALDYSZ	Sanna CLEMENTSSON	Tuna ELMAS
Marianne HARDING	Katarzyna DUFRAT	Ida GRONKVIST	Berrak ERKAN
Torild HESKJE	Danuta KAZMUCHA	Louise HALLQVIST	Ozlem KANDOLU
Bodil Nyheim OIGARDEN	Anna SARNIAK	Ylva JOHANSSON	Hatice OZGUR
Gunn Tove VIST	Justyna ZMUDA	Emma OVELIUS	Dilek YAVAS
Anne-Lill HELLEMANN NPC	Miroslaw CICHOCKI NPC	Linnea EDLUND NPC	M.Gokhan YILMAZ NPC
Jon-Egil FURUNES (Coach)	Lena LESZCZYNSKA (Coach)	Carina WADEMARK (Coach)	

CANADA

Louise BERTHIAUME	Giorgia BOTTA	Lynn BAKER	Ana Maria DE ALONSO
Sondra BLANK	Margie COLE	Hjordis EYTHORSDOTTIR	Irene ELKIN
Brenda BRYANT	Connie GOLDBERG	Karen McCALLUM	Clara FEINTUCH
Susan CULHAM	Emma KOLESNIK	Jill MEYERS	Maria Del Rosario GARATEGUY
Kismet FUNG	Irina LEVITINA	Kerri SANBORN	Maria Elena IACAPRARO
Pamela NISBET	Anam TEBHA	Janice SEAMON-MOLSON	Ana Lia SMALINSKY
Marc-Andre FOURCAUDOT NPC	Adam GROSSACK NPC	Joe STOKES NPC	Guillermo Rodolfo LEGA NPC
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BRAZIL

Aline BIONDILLO
Paula CORREA
Lucia DORIA
Sylvia MELLO
Graca PONCIONI
Isabella VARGAS DE ANDRADE
Bernardo Simoes CORREA NPC

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Kalpana BALIRAM GURJAR
Puja BATRA
Bharati DEY
Alka KSHIRSAGAR
Vidhya PATEL
Asha SHARMA
Anal SHAH NPC&Coach

UAE

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Chhaya GANDHI
Rubinder Kaur KOCHAR
Kumkum KUMAR
Manju LAW
Rupinder Kaur WALIA
Vandana VALRANI NPC
Darshan VALRANI Coach

BARBADOS

Patricia GREENIDGE
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Norma SPRINGER
Amanda STOREY
Roglyn HINDS PC

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Yan HUANG
Yan LIU
Jing Rong RAN
Xiuting YU
Meiling ZHOU
Xiaoxue ZUO
Yannan WANG NPC
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Yin-Shou CHEN
Kuan-Chu HSIAO
Yin-Yu LIN
Pei-Hua LIU
Violet LIU
Ming-Ching YANG
Yin-Shou CHEN NPC
Nai Jeng SHEN (Coach)

HONG KONG CHINA

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L. Fu CHEUNG
Lydia Wai Yee FUNG
Joanne HUI
Sui Yung KWOK
Jenny TO
Bacon LAM NPC
Pak Kin YIP (Coach)

AUSTRALIA

Nazife Margaret BASHAR
Helena DAWSON
Kinga MOSES
Jenny THOMPSON
Avril ZETS
Catherine (Runmei) ZHANG
Peter Walter BUCHEN NPC
Allison Joan STRALOW (Coach)

NEW ZEALAND

Jan ALABASTER
Andi BOUGHEY
Christine GIBBONS
Jenna GIBBONS
Pam LIVINGSTON
Carol RICHARDSON NPC
Kris WOOLES (Coach)

EGYPT

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Dina ELAWADY
Marguerite HOMSY
Noheir OMAR
Hoda SOLIMAN
Nada WATTAR
Mahmoud ZAITOUN NPC
Dina ELAWADY Coach)

MOROCC0

Hayet HACHIMI
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Khadija MARRAKCHI
Graziella NABIL
Leila SEKKAT
Samira TEBER
Hayet HACHIMI PC

SOUTH AFRICA

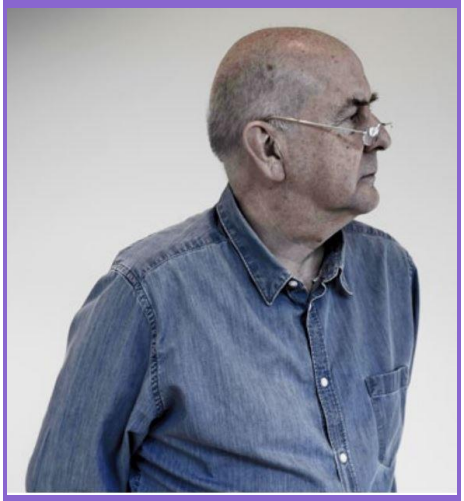
Vanessa ARMSTRONG
Nicola Mae BATEMAN
Roz BERNSTEIN
Sharon LANG
Anastasia NESTORIDIS
Carol STANTON
Roz BERNSTEIN PC

Click here for Championship Microsite RESULTS/BULLETINS/INFORMATION
Click here to find published Venice Cup draw and schedule

To KIBITZ (delayed)

Click here to watch anonymously (No account needed) OR Login to BBO

Mark Horton



Mark Horton is perhaps the best-known bridge journalist in the world. Long time editor of *Bridge Magazine* and *A New Bridge Magazine* he now edits *Bridgerama US* for 52 Entertainment and is Chief Editor to the WBF and the EBL. A prolific author, he is currently the man behind the production of the WBF's annual World Championship Books. He has just finished editing books translated from French, Norwegian and Danish and is due to deliver a new manuscript to Master Point Press on 1 January 2024. He lives in Shrewsbury with his wife Liz.

IN 1991 MARK HORTON WAS CAPTAIN OF THE BRITISH TEAM THAT CONTESTED THE VENICE CUP IN YOKOHAMA. SUBSEQUENTLY HE HAS ATTENDED EVERY CONTEST EXCLUDING THE 1993 EVENT IN SANTIAGO. HE RECOUNTS SOME OF THE MORE EXCITING MOMENTS FROM THE LAST 42 YEARS AND LOOKS FORWARD TO THIS YEAR'S TOURNAMENT.

DEATH IN VENICE

Mark writes…

IN LOVE WITH VENICE

In 1974, Europe, represented by Italy, met the United States in a match for a new trophy, the Venice Cup, which quickly became recognised as the pinnacle of achievement in Women's bridge. It gradually expanded, and now comprises 24 teams from the 8 WBF Zones. Over the years there have been many events to savour.

In 1995 in Beijing Germany made a tremendous comeback in the final session to defeat USA1. When it became clear that they had a winning advantage Jens Auken turned to us and said, 'Time for a beer chaps.' At that event I took all the photographs using a then revolutionary digital camera that was provided by Kodak. It was the size of spaceman's backpack!

Hammamet was the location of the 1997 Championships. China announced their presence as a major power when they reached the final, only to lose to USA1.

In Bermuda in 2000, it looked as if USA1 had won, but time penalties meant the Netherlands was victorious. It made the front page in Dutch newspapers, and they had an audience with the Queen upon their return.

A year later in Paris, Germany and France fought out what was perhaps the most thrilling final in the history of the event, in front of what was probably the biggest ever audience to follow a final session. As in Beijing Germany scored a come from behind victory. The German Bridge Federation were so delighted they authorised the purchase of new dresses for the medal ceremony.

The 2003 final in Monte Carlo was a repeat of the one in 1997, USA1 again getting the better of China.

In the 2005 contest in Estoril, France and Germany met in a rerun of the 2001 final. This time France made no mistake.

In 2007 in Shanghai Germany again reached the final, but they could not get past USA1.

In 2009 in São Paulo China added their name to the trophy with a ground-breaking win over USA1.

Beijing 1995 GERMANY: Klaus Reps (NPC), Daniela von Arnim, Pony Nehmert, Andrea Rauscheid, Karin Caesar, Sabine Auken (formerly Zenkel), Marianne Moegel

Hammamet 1997 USA: Sue Picus (NPC), Mildred Breed, Lisa Berkowitz, Tobi Sokolow, Marinesa Letizia, Jill Meyers, Randi Montin

Bermuda 2000 NETHERLANDS: Marijke van der Pas, Anneke Simons, Wietske van Zwol, Jet Pasman, Bep Vriend, Martine Verbeek, Ed Franken (NPC), Chris Niemeijer (Coach)

Paris 2001 GERMANY: Andrea Rauscheid, Daniela von Arnim, Sabine Auken, Barbara Hackett, Katrin Farwig, Beate (Pony) Nehmert, Joerg Fritsche (NPC)

In 2011 many of the favourites fell in Veldhoven, France securing the title as Indonesia took their first medals in a losing cause.
Bali was the exotic location of the 2013 championships, USA2 defeating England in a close final. The venue staged the Miss World contest at the same time!

In 2015 Chennai - France regained the title, defeating USA2 in the final. The hotel was so sophisticated that everything in the rooms was controlled by an ipad – you could even run a bath with it!

The 2017 event in Lyon saw China win for the second time, defeating England in the final.

The 2019 event in Wuhan will be remembered for the emergence of a new powerhouse in the guise of Sweden, who were too good for China in the final, and the world-wide pandemic that followed soon afterwards. Sweden had to wait until 2022 to defend their title in Salsomaggiore and they retained the trophy by defeating Türkiye in the final.

Who will emerge victorious in Marrakech?

Sweden will be hoping to make it a hat trick and along with Poland they are the strongest of the European teams. Teams from the USA can never be discounted, and it will be interesting to contrast the performance of the squads – will a blend of youth and experience be more effective than 'the old guard'. China (who did not compete in 2022) will surely be a threat. Although the winners are likely to be one of these five teams the unpredictable nature of the game makes it clear that nothing can be taken for granted.

Mark Horton

Wuhan 2019 SWEDEN: Carina Wademark (Coach), Emma Övelius, Ida Grönkvist, Kathrine Bertheau, Cecilia Rimstedt, Jessica Larsson, Kenneth Borin(NPC)

Salsomaggiore 2022 SWEDEN Tobias Törnqvist(NPC), Louise Hallqvist, Sanna Clementsson, Jessica Larsson, Emma Övelius, Carina Wademark(Coach), Kathrine Bertheau, Ylva Johansson.

Monte Carlo 2003 USA: Janice Seamon-Molson, Sue Picus, Jill Levin (formerly Blanchard), Katherine Wei-Sender, Betty Ann Kennedy,Tobi Sokolow, Kent Massie (NPC).

Réess

Shanghai 2007 USA : Jill Levin, Irina Levitina, Jill Meyers, Hansa Narasimhan, Debbie Rosenberg, Jo Anna Stansby, Gail Moss (NPC).

Bali 2013 USA: Hjordis Eythorsdottir, Jill Levin, Jill Meyers, Janice Seamon-Molson, Jenny Wolpert, Migry Zur-Campanile, Sue Picus (NPC).

Estoril 2005 FRANCE: Catherine d'Ovidio, Nathalie Frey, Sylvie Willard, Danièle Allouche, Vanessa Réess, (Gaviard, Bénédicte Cronier- Gérard Tissot (NPC) not pictured).

São Paulo 2009 CHINA: Yafu Lin (Coach) Wen Fei Wang, Hongli Wang, Ming Sun, Ru Yan, Yongling Dong

Veldhoven 2011 FRANCE: Back Row Patrick Grenthe, Bénédicte Cronier, Romain Tembouret (Coach), Thomas Bessis (NPC)
Second Row Catherine d'Ovidio, Danielle Allouche Gaviard, Joanna Neve, Sylvie Willard, Véronique Bessis
Front Row José Damiani, Jean-Claude Beineix

Chennai 2015 FRANCE: Debora Campagnano, Bénédicte Cronier, Elisabeth Hugon, Vanessa Réess, Sylvie Willard, Joanna Zochowska, Laurent Thuillez (NPC).

Lyon 2017 CHINA: Francesco Ferlazzo Natoli, Gianarrigo Rona, Xiaojing Wang (coach), Nan Wang, Yan Huang, Wen Fei Wang, Jianxin Wang (NPC), Yan Lu, Qi Shen, Yan Lin,José Damiani

Jill Meyers

Jill Meyers, outstanding Women's Champion, took time out from the Summer NABC to share a little of her thoughts and experiences in her vast ongoing Bridge journey which currently puts her second on the all-time Women's ranking list, holds a record four times winner of the Venice Cup with a fifth that 'got away'!

When Jill won her 4th World Teams Championship in Bali in 2013, it was a result never achieved in the history of the Venice Cup and it is a record that still stands.

Jill was inducted in to the ACBL Hall of Fame in 2014.

Here's the interview with the Star.

Santiago 1993: Sharon Osberg, Karen McCallum, Jill Meyers, Sue Picus, Kay Schulle, Kerri Shuman, Jo Morse (NPC)

Hammamet 1997: Lisa Berkowitz, Mildred Breed, Marinesa Letizia, Jill Meyers, Randi Montin, Tobi Sokolow, Sue Picus (NPC)

Shanghai 2007: Jill Levin, Irina Levitina, Jill Meyers, Hansa Narasimhan, Debbie Rosenberg, Jo Anna Stansby, Gail Moss (NPC)

Bali 2013: Hjordis Eythorsdottir, Jill Levin, Jill Meyers, Janice Seamon-Molson, Jenny Wolpert, Migry Zur-Campanile, Sue Picus (NPC)

Top L to R:
Sam Dinkin (Coach), Karen McCallum, Jill Meyers
Centre:
Hjordis ythorsdottir, Janice Seamon-Molson
Bottom L to R:
Kerri Sanborn, Joe Stokes(NPC), Lynn Baker

Team Baker – Venice Cup 2023 – USA2

INTERVIEW WITH JILL

Jill, **Q: So where did Bridge begin for you?**

A: We always played cards as a family and I was the youngest of three so I had some "stiff" competition just because of my age. My grandparents taught me to play pinochle when I was eight so that they would have a third. My sister started college when I was 10 and she brought bridge home so I was playing bridge, albeit a rudimentary version, at 10 years old. I loved it and would sit by myself and play Autobridge.

Q: What was the path you took to reach the heights of being the very best and what qualities are needed to be that very best?

A: No path, it just happened, but to be good it takes stamina, focus, concentration, good logic, competitiveness, fearlessness and practice, practice, practice. I also was surrounded by good players when I started playing duplicate in LA at age 22, so I had some good teachers.

Q: You have managed not only a brilliant Bridge Career but also a successful professional career as Music Consultant for Motion Picture, TV and Advertising industries, this has to be a rare achievement, so **how do they both marry?**

A: They don't marry other than they are both very much about problem solving. I have my professional life and friends, and my bridge life. Most of my social friends do not play bridge.

Q: You were inducted in to the ACBL Hall of Fame in 2014 with the accolades of holding the title of seven world championships, of being ranked 7th among 73 Women World Grand Masters by world masterpoints (MP) and 1st by placing points that do not decay over time. **What did this honour mean to you?**

A: Of course it is an honour to be recognized by your peers, it is very difficult to get into the HOF as a woman in particular because we have one HOF that includes men and women. It took four tries before I was elected.

Q: Your husband, Sid Brownstein, is a highly rated player in his own right. **How important is his support?**

A: Sid's support is very important to me, we are each other's biggest cheerleaders. But the most generous act of support he ever showed was when I was miserable working my corporate job when I was in my late 30's. We were not married yet but he encouraged me to quit my job and strike out on my own professionally so that I would have more freedom to compete in bridge tournaments, and he volunteered to support me while I was figuring all of this out. You can't be much more supportive than that.

ACBL HALL of FAME

Open Award

The ACBL Hall of Fame Open Award shall be given annually to living individuals who have achieved prominence in the game of bridge and have an outstanding tournament record. They shall be elected by electors, as described in Section 5 of the Hall of Fame Operating Procedures.

Q: The inaugural Warren Buffett Bridge Challenge which mirrored Golf's Ryder Cup took place in Dublin in 2006 . You and Jill Levin were the two women on the team for USA, Sabine Auken and Daniela Von Arnim the two women for Europe. **How do you rate this experience in your overall Bridge experiences?**

A: This was one of the best events I ever played in, the players included the world's best (Hamman and Soloway , Levin and Weinstein and Berkowitz/Cohen and Zia/Welland / Geoff Hampson and Fred Gitelman as our teammates and the Europeans had players of the same status). The organizers, including Mary Kelly Rogers and Paul Porteous, did an amazing job to make this a special event, including arranging for daily police escorts for the approximate 30 minute drive from our hotel to the playing site, the route was fraught with traffic. It was quite an experience to have the traffic parted for us to make our way. The camaraderie with all of the players was stupendous, and at the closing "ceremonies" I had the nerve to get up and sing O Sole Mio with Giorgio Duboin, who has a great voice and of course knew the words, I was flubbing my way through.

Q: The title for the Women's Bridge Workshops at the EBL Officers' Seminar in 2018 was quoting Shakespeare 'to be or not to be that is the question'. In the survey before the Seminar you were asked your opinion as to whether there should be a Women's category. Your answer back then was it should be there as long as women want it, but you prefer the Open and Mixed. **Is this still your stance?**

A: Yes, and I am combining this answer with the next question because I don't really know about BAMSA. There are a fair amount of women who make their living(s) playing bridge. The elimination of women's events cuts that opportunity down because women don't get hired as much in open events. Also, I think there are also a lot of women who are raising families etc and just want to go out and play for fun with their friends and have an opportunity to do well, which would not be as easy in Open events. They cut out women's teams events in the US about 10 years ago other than the team trials for the World Championships. It does not hurt anyone to have the option for women's events, same as Senior or Youth events. If there is any demand for events catering to a certain segment of the population then service that segment. So for the women who want to play with women they should have this option, and for women who have male partners they can play the Open events, something for everyone.

Q: Women's Bridge – Pros and Cons was a topic at the BAMSA (Bridge a Mindsport for All) Conference in 2021 so the debate continued. **Do you still feel the same way?** **A:** See answer above.

Kerri &Jill Gold Poland 2022

Editor: Jill, all the best to you and your team for the Venice Cup and thank you.

Jill: Thank YOU!

Q: Another topic at the BAMSA Conference was Sexism within the game – Solutions. **Do you think Sexism within the game exists?**

A: YES. No solution other than getting men to change their mindsets. That said, I do think some men are getting more inclusive but women really have to prove themselves – and dedicate themselves to the game, and also think they can "beat" men . I was very fortunate learning to play duplicate in LA because the good players there would play with women.

And finally…the Venice Cup

Q: USA has won the Women's World Championships (Venice Cup) 11 times and for four of these you were on the winning team Santiago 1993, Hammamet 1997, Shanghai 2007 and Bali 2013 but there could have been a 5th in Bermuda in 2000. **Please tell us more and was there a lesson learnt?**

A: In Bermuda we played the finals against the Netherlands. We lost by ½ imp on a slow play penalty so but for the slow penalty we would have won; but "worse" than that when we got home Eric Kokish must have been writing the women's segment of the finals and he reached out to me and asked if we misscored a board because I was in a game that took 10 tricks but everyone at the table scored it down one, I guess I had a trick turned wrong, so we lost on the slow play penalty and on the mis-score. Something good did come out of this, a Dutch sponsor invited our entire team to the Hague that summer, expenses paid, to have a rematch against the Dutch team and we all became really good friends. I think Bermuda was the turning point in Europe/US relations at the bridge table, which were always a little standoffish .

Q: Who were you partners each time you won?
A: 1993 Santiago -Kay Schulle
1997 Hammamet – Randi Montin
2007 Shanghai – Jill Levin
2013 Bali – Migry Zur-Campanile

Q: Kerri Sanborn is your partner for the 46th World Bridge Teams Championships in Marrakech. You won the Women's Pairs with Kerri last year in the WBF 16th World Series in Poland. Clearly you are a good partnership, **what makes a good partnership?**

A: Chemistry, respect and a lot of practice.

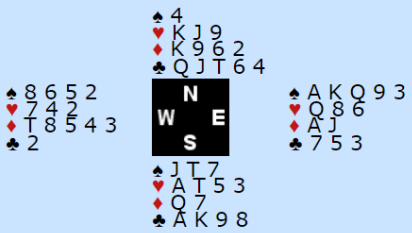
Q: Your team seem to be long-time friends and teammates. **Are you excited for you and your team for these championships and is the preparation going well?**

A: Always excited to play in a world championship, WCs are my favorite. We are in Chicago this week practicing as a team.

Sophia Baldysz

Team Salcomaggiore 2022

Board 25. Dealer North. E-W Vulnerable.



Team 2022 Miroslaw CICHOCKI (npc)
Cathy BALDYSZ, Anna SARNIAK
Sophia BALDYSZ, Katarzyna DUFRAT,
Joanna ZALEWSKA
Danuta KAZMUCHA
Team 23 minus Joanna Zalewska
Plus Justyna ZMUDA and
Lena LESZCZYNSKA(Coach)

TEAM POLAND- VENICE CUP 2023

Venice Cup 2023

This is going to be my 4th Venice Cup on the Polish National team. What can I say? Each one has been intriguing in it's own unique way, each one has it's own original stories attached to it, each one has it's own memories of people met, boards played, imps earned and lost. The next one in Morocco? Wouldn't miss it for the world.

As the open ceremony draws nearer and nearer I look back at some of the past championships. Surely one of the most out of the ordinary ones was the last one in 2022 in Salsomaggiore, Italy. Still pretty much during a declared pandemic, with no transnational championships and fewer faces passing by in the playing area halls. Probably also the only championship during which we had to play four segments per day during the knockout stages (instead of the usual three) to catch up the covid testing day. Whether we would finish the championship remained an unknown throughout the entire knockout stage, but even so we didn't stop fighting to win a spot in the final four, including this one Board 25.

http://db.worldbridge.org/Repository/tourn/salsomaggiore.22/microSite/Asp/BoardAcrossKO.asp?qboard=025.06.QF.2205&qphase=QF

You're in first seat in North. Bearing in mind that the other table opens with 10+ points, you open 1 diamond (5+ or 4 with 4441 or 4 diamonds and 5 clubs). East overcalls 1 spade, my mom doubles in South, West bids 3 spades. Pass, pass, double. What call do you make? Even now partner can still have a weak 5card heart suit, even with only 4 playing in hearts might not be that bad. I decide to go with 4 hearts, which ends the bidding. East leads the AK of spades. I ruff and need to draw trumps, but I can't lose control of the hand, because they might shorten me in spades. What do I do? I lead the jack of hearts, which wins. Followed by the king of hearts, club to dummy, ace of hearts and I reel off all the clubs, pitching a spade from dummy and losing only the ace of diamonds. +1. Interestingly enough, the heart contract wasn't very popular, only 2 other pairs played in hearts, with a 50% accuracy. Would have been disappointing to see the championship end during that very board.

This upcoming championship will surely be an interesting one, like many others. Good luck to everyone and I'll see you on the pitch!

Sophia Baldysz

Anne-Lill Hellemann

Marianne Harding & Ann Karin Fuglestad

Liv Marit Grude Bodil Øygarden

Photos from 56th EBL Team Championships, Madeira 2022

NORWAY - STEADY AS THEY GO – THIRD TIME VENICE

From left. Jon Egil Furunes(Coach), Anne-Lill Hellemann(NPC), Ann Karin Fuglestad, Torild Heskje, Mariann Harding, Liv Marit Grude, Gunn Tove Vist and Bodil Øigarden

NPC Anne-Lill writes:- This is the third time the Norwegian ladies have qualified for Venice Cup. We are hoping to achieve a good result and our team will be the same as the previous years.

Marianne Harding - Ann Karin Fuglestad, Torild Heskje - Gunn Tove Vist, and Bodil Øygarden -Liv Marit Grude. They have been partners for years and all pairs have won many Norwegian championships, topped with the bronze medal in the European championship in Ostende.

The three pairs are probably known to many as they have been playing together for many years.

As you can see, not much has happened in Norway so far with recruitment of new woman players. But Marianne has just started a project to implement bridge into a school program and Gunn Tove is working hard to recruit young players. This will hopefully get many new woman players who can participate in the future.

Anne-Lill Hellemann

Janice Seamon-Molson

Janice Seamon-Molson, from Hollywood, Florida, USA, member of the High Level Players Commission since 2014, was elected to the Executive Council in 2015 and re-elected in 2018, as a representative of the High Level Players (HLP)s.

Janice a WBF World Grand Master, is seventh in the WBF Women's Ranking and a five times World Champion, Montecarlo 2003, Verona 2006, Beijing 2011, Bali 2013 and Wroclaw 2016. She won the SportAccord Minds Games in 2011 in Beijing.

Janice USA2

FIVE TIMES WORLD CHAMPION - PROFESSIONAL

Janice, this is an awesome profile, congratulations!

Q: Did your bridge career almost start in the cradle - a family tradition, like many top American players?

A: My parents and aunt, Edith Kemp, were all professional bridge players. Growing up I hated everything bridge. However, In college I came home for a break to find my brother, Michael, playing bridge and there and then I decided if he could play, so could I, and I fell in love with the game.

Q: You belong to a small minority of stars who have managed not only a professional career outside of bridge, a bridge professional career while also an executive on the World Bridge Federation (WBF). **How have you managed to stay on top of your game and do all three?**

A: Being an attorney and a bridge player didn't mix.The first round of "lawyering" was when the World Champions came to Miami and I asked my boss for an unpaid week off to play with my Mom in the women's pairs. He said NO with the warning that if I wanted to be an attorney I had to pay my dues! I decided I didn't want to be a lawyer and 10 years later I tried tried again - same result. As to the WBF board, it was not possible to give the WBF appropriate and due attention as I represented the US at all but one of the championships and couldn't attend the meetings. I came to Lyon for the meetings and in Orlando, when eliminated early, I attended there but I couldn't do the job efficiently and stepped down. I don't know if you can really do it all but I couldn't and found trying to be at the top of my game was the most important thing in my life EXCEPT for raising my daughter, Jennifer, who does have it all!

Q: What plan did you put in place to stay focused that might help women of today?

A: I read every bridge book involving problem solving that I can get my hands on. I kibitz and have the greatest access to top players one can have to ask questions. I dissect every result that isn't perfect to determine what I could have done differently.

Q: Were there any obstacles in the path of your success that could direct change in the future?

A: When Jen was 7, my husband Mark Molson died. I became a single parent. At the time I was only playing national and international events and my husband was the primary income producer. If my mother hadn't stepped up to help with Jen, I couldn't have made it. Without her, I would have been a practicing attorney.

Team Baker – USA2

Hjordis Eythorsdottir, Kerri Sanborn, Karen McCallum, Lynn Baker, Jill Meyers, Janice Seamon-Molson

Q: Your team, the Baker team, will represent the USA this month in the Venice Cup in Marrakech. The United States Bridge Federation (USBF) had four teams trial for two places.

In 2005 12 teams trialled, eight teams between 2007 and 2012 and then five teams in 2019 falling to four in 2023.. **What do you think is happening to the USA women's category to have only four teams compete?**

A: I have very strong opinions on this. When men's events were eliminated, women's events were seen as secondary events. Women decided to enter open events with other women or men rather than compete in "secondary " events. The women's trials numbers have gone down dramatically in the past few years. Initially when team trials started, it was limited to the winners of the national women's team events plus Canada. When they opened the trials to all, I don't remember it ever being more than 10 teams. The crash in women's team events at the nationals directly related to the lawsuit (no men's events) being settled. My first National women's KO had over 60 women's teams. My last had 3. Heartbreaking but the solution being - add some men's events back to force women back. Obviously if women don't have open options in every event, they will play women's events and not feel it is a copout. I might add the women's pairs at the nationals are on the rise.

Q: While four teams competed in the Women's trials, only two women played in the Open trials and there were nine teams in the Mixed trials, It begs the question **- Where are all the USBF women players gone?**

A: We are getting old and the younger women are still developing into the top players that they will be someday soon. I hit my peak at 43. Most do. They have a bit to go but they will get there!.

Q: As a professional player - **do you think this is a worrying situation for women professionals?**

A: I think absolutely it's a very serious problem and very concerning.

Q: Women's Bridge – Pros and Cons was a topic at the BAMSA (Bridge a Mindsport for All) Conference in 2021. Some say it should just be Bridge. **Do you think there should be a women's category?**

A: YES

Q: All eight zones were contacted with this question in research for the BAMSA Seminar and the cry was "Keep the Venice Cup". The word back was that if there is not a women's category, the number of women playing internationally would drop significantly**. Do you think likewise?**

A: I do. It would horrify me to see the Venice Cup eliminated.

Q: Another topic at the BAMSA Conference was Sexism within the game – Solutions. **Do you think Sexism within the game exists?**

A: Yes but it is the same in all sports. It's life!

Janice's proudest moment

Her first win of the Venice Cup

Monte Carlo

Monaco 2003

Q: Clearly you have much to be proud of but what was your proudest moment in Bridge?

A: My first Venice Cup win in Monaco

And now Gold at the

10th EUROPEAN Transnational CHAMPIONSHIPS

Monte Carlo 2003 USA

Janice Seamon-Molson, Sue Picus, Jill Levin (formerly Blanchard), Katherine Wei-Sender, Betty Ann Kennedy,Tobi Sokolow, Kent Massie (NPC).

Janice,
Congratulations on winning the Women's teams at the 10th European Transnational Championships in Strasbourg in June. You are in top form for the Venice Cup! Thank you for taking the time to answer these questions and for your interesting insights.

All the best for the Venice Cup 2023.

Tripolar: Anam Tebha, Nicola Smith,Irene Baroni, Katherine Bertheau, Janice Seamon-Molson, Nevena Senior

Marc-Andre Fourcaudot Captain Canadian Venice team writes

CANADIAN WOMEN CHOOSE WOMEN'S BRIDGE

Louise Berthiaume and Sondra Blank are part of the Canadian team taking part in the Venice Cup.

Sondra has represented Canada on several occasions on the women's world stage, while Louise, an experienced Bridge player and teacher, will be taking part in her first women's event.

Sondra Blank

At the Canadian national team selection championships, Louise and Sondra won GOLD in both the women's and mixed teams, giving them the option of representing the country at the Wuhan Cup or the Venice Cup. So, although their partnership is very recent, less than 6 months old, the successes are already coming fast and furious. Which will it be...women or mixed? They didn't hesitate to ditch their male partners!

Louise Berthiaume

However, they have graciously asked their male partners to join them, as coach and captain respectively of their team for the Venice Cup**.**

Both Dropped

Left Kamel Fergani **Now Coach**

Right Marc-Andre Fourcaudot **now NPC**

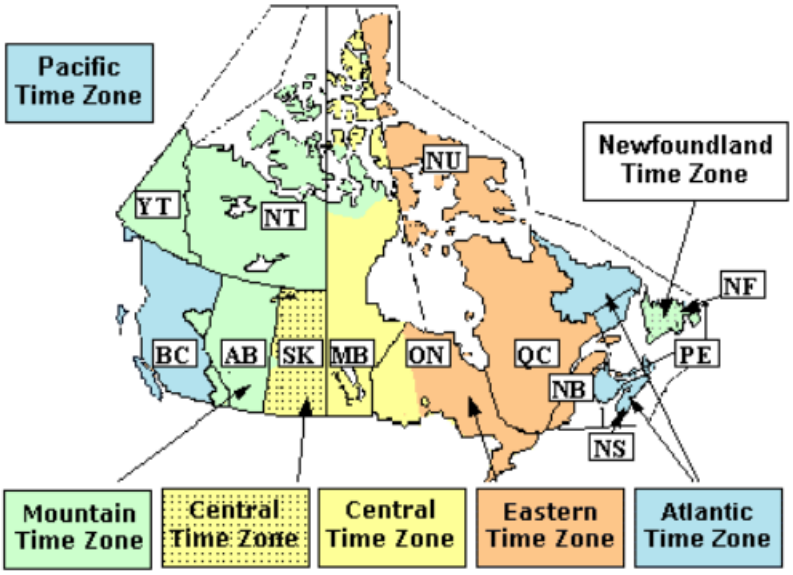
Marc-Andre Fourcaudot continues..

ONLINE BRIDGE HAS GREATLY HELPED

Canada is a vast country, so it's not unusual for a Canadian team to be made up of players from relatively distant regions. Online Bridge has greatly helped to break down the barriers of distance, but it doesn't solve everything when it comes to different time zones. During Canadian Trials, when played online, this could be a challenge.

Susan Culham and Kismet Fung form a pair that has enjoyed multiple successes over the past fifteen years, and are proud representatives of the Alberta - Montain Time Zone.

But why keep it simple if you can make it complicated? The team is also made up of Brenda Bryant and Pamela Nisbet, two Canadian players who have been putting in solid performances for just over 5 years, that have relocated in other parts of the world.



The Canadian team taking part in the Venice Cup represents the Eastern and Mountain Time Zone regions.

Now to plan online practices, you'll have to take into account New Zealand's time zone!

Finally, we have to thank other compatriots who made themselves available for online practices, some of whom live in the UK and Germany!

A team ready to practice at any hour of the day shows either enthusiasm to do well for their country, or a lot of love for Bridge, or a bit of madness....or all of the above!

The captain of this team must be comfortable handling time zones and never schedule a practice at the same time as a nail appointment!!!!

Marc-Andre Fourcaudot

Lone Bilde writes of big dreams!

Maria Dam Mortensen (NPC) and coach Jan Nielsen.

The three "Bilde"a
Dorte, Trine, Lone

And the remaining three
Charlotte Koch-Palmund, Anita Buus Thomsen, & Helle Rasmussen

DENMARK

This time, we qualified comfortably from the European Championships in Madeira in 6th place, and - as I recall it here one year after - without big nerves. In Madeira, we played only fourhandedly (Dorte Cilleborg Bilde – Anita Buus Thomsen and Helle-Rasmussen and myself).

In Marrakech, Trine Bilde and Charlotte Koch-Palmund will join the team, so we will have a full team of six players. This is the exact same team that qualified for the quarterfinal in Salsomaggiore and lost it to Poland in the very last section. If – as hoped – we will qualify again among the 8 first in Marrakech, I think, we have now learned to remember to tighten our buttocks (pardon my language but this is a Danish saying) at the very end of the quarterfinal.

My big dream is of course to meet our excellent neighbours from Sweden in the final. Although this never happened before in history, there is a saying that "if you cannot dream it, you cannot live it". Let us see first what the heat, hospitality, hamams, the scent of tagines, couscous and Morrocan hospitality can do for us. I am sure that my partner Helle Rasmussen and our entire team share this dream.

We will play with support from our captain Maria Dam Mortensen and coach Jan Nielsen. One of their biggest challenges is to make no mistakes when lining up a "Bilde" with her right partner. You may have noticed that we are three "Bilde"s in the team (D. Bilde, T.Bilde and L.Bilde).

Just a service information for those unaware of Danish genealogy: "Bilde" is a very rare name in Denmark (as opposed to e.g. "Rasmussen" and "Thomsen") and the 400 persons named Bilde are all related in one way or another. Dorte and Trine are sisters-in-law, but my family relationship with them is very remote (the anecdotes say that Trine's and my great grandfathers were brothers).

The big number of Bilde's in Danish bridge is a statistical coincidence and so is my dream about playing Sweden in the final, if it becomes real. I am sure co-incidences will work our way this time when the cards are dealt.

Lone Bilde

Neighbours/Competitors/Friends

Silver Medallists Venice Cup 2022

Belis ATALAY, Ozlem KANDOLU
Serap KURANOGLU, Irem OZBAY
Halil ATALAY, Dilek YAVAS
Hatice OZGUR, Irem OZBAY

Strong contenders 2023

Dilek Yavaş, Hatice Ozgur, Aslı Acar, Berrak Erkan, Tuna Elmas, Ozlem Kandolu, M.Gokhan Yilmaz(NPC)

Hatice Ozgur player & M.Gokhan Yilmaz(NPC)

TURKIYE – Meet the Team

Dilek Yavaş

I was born in 1976. I am an oncology pharmacist and a professional bridge player. I've been playing bridge since 1995. I played as a member of the national team for 12 times. I won the last open European Women Pairs with Hatice Özgür. The championship in Marrakech will be my 3rd World Championship. I believe that I will represent my country in the best way.

Aslı Acar

I was born in 1973 in İzmir. I am an emergency physician. I started playing bridge when I was 19 years old. I played as a member of the woman and mixed national teams several times. I have been playing with Berrak Erkan for 13 years. I believe in my team so I think we will be successful at Venice Cup.

Berrak Erkan

I was born in 1979 in İzmir. I am a statistician. I started playing bridge in 2004 with my boyfriend. He quit playing bridge a year later. This was his best decision so we have been together for 25 years. I have been playing with Aslı Acar for 13 years. We played the European Championship in 2012(Dublin) together and won the bronze medal; this year we played European transnational woman teams together and completed the tournament in the 3rd place as well.

Tuna Elmas

I have been playing bridge since 2000. In fact ,bridge has been in my house for much more earlier than that, since my parents have played it. I love the game and the feeling of victory it gives me. Four years ago , I won the EBL Cup, together with my ten years mixed partner and last year we were in Salsomaggiore with Turkish Mixed National Team. My woman partner Ozlem, pictured here is my friend and I love her. We have worked very hard for the pair elections together and we have been playing for five years. I hope we will win as a team in Morocco. With my best wishes and greetings to everybody.

David Harari writes:

A glorious past

From the beginning of the 21st century, France has had a long history of success in the Venice Cup. After a very narrow loss against Germany (Paris, 2001), France finally won the Cup for the first time in 2005 (Estoril) in a breath-taking rerun against Germany. Two more successes followed
(Veldhoven 2011 and Chennai 2015).

Bénedicte Cronier and Sylvie Willard (now Gombert) were members of the French team in all of these victories. EBL Hall of famer Catherine d'Ovidio (who unfortunately left us in 2020) has two wins, as well as Danièle Gaviard, Vanessa Reess and Joanna Zochowska (who is originally from Poland).

Expectations for the 2023 Venice Cup

The team took only the 5th place in the 2022 European team championship, so it is probably not one of the big favourites for the Venice Cup (I would personally bet on Poland). However, we hope for a spot in the KO stage, and maybe better...

France at the Venice Cup

The 2023 team

L ro R top Anne-Laure Tartarin, Martine Rossard, Véronique Bessis,
L to R bottom Danièle Avon, Sabine Rolland, Carole Puillet

The French team for the 2023 Venice Cup at Marrakech is a mix of youth and experience. Danièle Avon played for France for the first time more than 50 years ago, which certainly is some kind of record ! Her partner Véronique Bessis is the only member of the 2023 team among the former Venice Cup winners (Veldhoven, 2011). The team includes two young professional players : Anne-Laure Tartarin (who is the current number one female player in the French ranking) and Carole Puillet. Their respective partners are Martine Rossard and Sabine Rolland, both playing in their first Venice Cup. All team members have been especially successful in the main French events in the last few years. The captain is once again Wilfried Libbrecht, who is also the so-called « entraîneur national » (=general coach) in charge of all French teams.

David Harari

Linnea Edlund writes

We really look forward to try to defend the title. But we have two newly combined pairs - Kathrine-Sanna and Ida-Emma. Even though all these are world class players, who know each other usually as team mates but not partners, there will always be a bit of insecurity in both bidding style, and defense.

The third pair is the sisters, Ylva and Louise, who have really been a very good asset for the team both in Salsomaggiore and Madeira, and recently crowned as Nordic champions!

We look very much forward to test our abilities against the best possible competition in Marrakech- just hoping that the warm climate will not be too much to handle.

Linnea

SWEDEN – DEFENDERS WUHUN 2019 -SALSOMAGGIORE 2022

Kathrine BERTHEAU, Emma OVELIUS Ida GRONKVIST
Carina WADEMARK(Coach) Ylva JOHANSSON
Sanna CLEMENTSSON, Linnea EDLUND(NPC), Louise HALLQVIST

Message from Helen Kruger South Africa

SOUTH AFRICA - WOMEN PLAYERS WITH B HEARTS

We are a small country of women players with big hearts.

We are thrilled that we have our Women's team competing in the Venice Cup.

Top L to R Vanessa Armstrong, Roz Bernstein, Sharon Lang
Front L to R Nicola Mae Bateman, Carol Stanton, Anastasia Nestoridis

We wish all the competitors success and good Bridge.

Helen

Adam Grossack

'Please see six testimonies that showcase the amazing women on the USA 1 team for the upcoming Venice Cup in Marrakech, Morocco. Their achievements at the bridge table are impressive, but what is equally striking for this group is their dedication to the advancement of the game of bridge'.

Adam Grossack

Adam is NPC of USA1 and has compiled the team biographies.

MEET USA1

Margie Cole, of NYC, retired as a retail executive 12 years ago, looking for a hobby. She attended her first nationals in 2015 and faced the Nickell squad in the Spingold… that match propelled her to continue playing against high-level competition going forward. Margie won the Women's National Pair event in both 2022 and 2023 and nabbed a second in 2019 in the Mitchell BAM.

Margie's regular partner is Alejandro Bianchedi, from Buenos Aires, Argentina. Ale serves as a coach for Margie and Emma's partnership. Margie and Emma have only recently started playing together, but they have natural chemistry.

Margie is married to Warren, who does not play bridge but their two daughters, Jacqueline and Samantha, do. Jacqueline started playing 18 months ago and Samantha recently joined Margie's "young professionals" class where Margie teaches a weekly free lesson open to anyone aged 22-30 interested in learning how to play.

Giorgia Botta started playing bridge at age 12 in Rome, Italy, where she was born and raised. Her mentor in Italy was Alfredo Versace. From a young age, she balanced her passion for bridge with her studies. When she graduated from university, she decided to give the bridge professional life a shot. Giorgia coached the Columbia University Bridge Club, mentoring students through the collegiate program. Giorgia has built a successful and happy life in Brooklyn, NY, playing and teaching bridge full-time. She is married to her husband, Fabian, who is not a bridge player but enjoys traveling to bridge tournaments with Giorgia.

Giorgia made the transition to the USBF in 2019 and this will be her first world championships as well as her first time representing the USA in an international competition. Giorgia plays with Anam Tebha on the Venice Cup team. They are a new partnership but have a natural synergy.

Emma Kolesnik, of Brooklyn, NY, will represent USA 1 for the second Venice Cup in a row. Emma's other bridge accomplishments include a bronze medal in the European Mixed Championships this summer, playing with Adam Grossack, and an eighth-place finish in last year's Reisinger, playing with her father, Alex Kolesnik. She is also representing the USA this year on team USA1 at the 18th World Youth Team Championships in the U26 category in Veldhoven.

Emma comes from a bridge family. Emma's parents, Sharon Beynon and Alex Kolesnik, are both college professors and bridge players in Southern California, where Emma spent most of her childhood, and her brother, Finn Kolesnik, is a professional bridge player.

Emma is an alumna of Scripps College, where she led her collegiate bridge team to the semi-finals of the collegiate bridge championships. She studied Mathematics and Russian in college and now works full-time as a Data Consultant at Microsoft. Emma enjoys cooking, traveling, art, and reading.

Anam Tebha has already won one gold medal this summer in Strasbourg, France, playing with Janice Seamon-Molson at the Women's European Bridge Championships. Anam's other wins include the 2016 Fall Mixed Swiss, playing with Zia, and both the U26 Open Teams and U26 BAM at the 2017 Youth Bridge Transnational Championships in Lyon, France, playing with Kevin Rosenberg. Anam learned bridge in 2008 as a teenager, while in summer school in Pakistan. Soon after,(knowing only keycard) Anam and her classmates played at the Junior World Championships in China. When she returned home, she spent at least 5 hours a day on BBO. Clearly, she was hooked. Originally from Las Vegas, Anam currently resides in New York and plays bridge professionally. She has 2 dogs, Anya and Kiva.

Irina Levitina, of New Jersey, is a 7-time world bridge champion (6 women, 1 mixed) and a professional bridge player and chess teacher. Irina is the only person in the world to have won a world championship in both chess and bridge.
Irina was born in St. Petersburg, Russia and was first taught chess as a young child by her father. By the age of 18, she was a member of the Soviet team and was the top woman at the Chess Olympiad. At the age of 18, Irina also took up bridge. Irina immigrated to the US in Dec. 1990 and co-founded the International Chess Academy in Teaneck, NJ in 1997.
Irina is well-respected for her declarer play. She was one of 34 world class players invited to participate in the World Par Contest. She finished 14th overall, 1st among all women.

When Margie Cole called Connie Goldberg after the trials and asked her to join the team, Connie said yes before Margie could even finish the question. This competition will be Connie's 4th Venice Cup.

Connie, who currently resides in Philadelphia, has notable achievements: 1st in the John Roberts Cavendish Invitational in 2006; 1st in the World Mixed Swiss Teams in Philadelphia in 2010; 3rd in the Reisinger in 2016.

At age 11, Connie visited her cousins in North Carolina. They introduced her to the game of bridge. She spent the next five years reading all she could and saving all her babysitting money, sometimes lying to her parents, to play as many tournaments as possible. Connie would have benefitted from a junior training program such as the one that the USBF & ACBL have now, no such program existed in the '70s. The bridge community needs to continue to show its support for these programs.

Adam Grossack

Annaïg Della Monta writes

As a team, we have been traveling a long way. Today, we feel the team is greater than the sum of its parts. We are looking forward to doing our best and to having a great time in Marrakech.

Annaig shares a hand from one of their training session and asks…..

Here is an example: You are South and the bidding goes: 1D – (1H) – P – (2H). How do you continue?

N annaig	
♠ 10652	
♥ 1098	
♦ J2	
♣ KJ65	
S karo72003	
♠ A3	
♥ 7	
♦ AKQ986	
♣ AQ104	

Would you have reached 6 Clubs with your favourite partner?

All the best in Marrakech.

Annaïg

The German Ladies - On the Way to Marrakesh

The Team (left to right): Ingrid Gromann, Karin Wenning, Eckhard Böhlke (Coach), Kathryn Herz (NPC), Annaïg Della Monta, Susanne Kriftner, Gisela Smykalla, Mieke Plath

Hardly back from Madeira, we immediately started our journey to the Venice Cup in Marrakech.

Our captain and coach organised an intensive training programme for over one year with Tim Cope as our trainer. Tim represented South Africa internationally continuously from 1992 to 2011, reaching the Bermuda Bowl semi-finals in 2007. Nowadays he is an international top trainer.

In each training session we played 12 demanding boards, checking all areas of our game: declarer play, defence, and partnership agreements. Each session was analysed and discussed in detail, 'Key Learnings' were summarised to allow each pair to improve their system. Not to mention the «Double Quiz» (72 questions!) and the unique overview on all kinds of 'double' meanings resulting from it. 22 exciting sessions designed to help each player grow individually and to develop each partnership, with the constant support of Tim, Kathryn and Eckhard.

Annaïg Della Monta

Adi Assouline & Hila Levy

Hila and Adi have an amazing playing record in both Pairs and Teams, not only in Youth events, but also in Women's and Open Series having won the revival of the EBL Women's National Pairs in Budapest in 2016 and in the same year the Open Pairs in the World Bridge Games in Wroclaw.

Their success has continued and continues as they represent Israel in the World Women's Championship (Venice Cup) in Marrakech, qualifying when Israel won Bronze at the 55th European Team Championships in Madeira last year.

They now write about their amazing team.

ISRAEL – AN INTERESTING TEAM

We have a young and energetic team - teenagers, in their late twenties, and late thirties.

We trained hard for this moment and feel ready for it. Our team actually is an interesting one. Ziv and Adel are 18 years old (they study in the same class in high school) and they participated five years ago in an Israeli federation project to promote teenage girls in bridge.

Since then they have been playing in the Israeli girls and women's team. Dana and Noga are sisters with wide international experience. They combine motherhood with careers and profess bridge—quite a challenge!

Hila and I have been playing together for almost 20 years (and we are still best friends 😊). Last but not least is our captain, Israel (like the name of our country) that believes in us and pushes us forward even if we won't guess all the finesses right.

We are looking forward to taking on the challenge of competing with the world's finest women's bridge teams. At the same time, we are looking forward to showing the world what the Israeli Women's team is made of. See you there!

Hila and Adi

Jenny TO tells her story encouraged by NPC Bacon Lam

A DREAM COME TRUE FOR JENNY

Bridge is one of my secondary school's extra curricular activities, I learnt bridge from Form 4. My partner went to US for university study and so no more partnership bridge until July 2010. The first return to playing bridge was in July 2010 and it was then that I met my system master, Bacon. The system I am using now is called Bacon's system. He asked whether I wanted to learn his system. At that time I really forgot what kind of system I used before, I saw his system in two pages only, therefore I agreed (because I am lazy to read books). What a miracle, I won HK Ladies Open pair in 2013 and Intercity's Mixed pairs in 2014 by using this simple system. Bacon is kind hearted to teach us his system without asking for any return, his only objective is simply promoting the sport 'bridge'. A number of bridge players learned his system, we built up friendship by meeting regularly on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Of course not restricted to playing bridge, we had Karaoke, BBQ, hot pot, seafood, big meals, etc all together. A lot of fun is intrinsic from playing bridge. Our big brother (Bacon's son) is only 21 years old and Bacon taught him the system when he was five years old.

My eldest partner, Ella Graca (unfortunately died in 2018), played regularly with me in KCC up to when she was 100 years of age. She learnt Bacon's system when she was 95. She loved Bacon very much as he always drove her door to door. She asked me to bring her to dance and singing and I fulfilled her wish by celebrating her 100th birthday in a private party. We can see how happy she was!

On 21 Sept 2019, I treated 12 bridge friends to celebrate my first Champion win in Bridge House and gave my special thanks to my system master, Bacon. (It was his birthday celebration).

TEAM HONG KONG CHINA

Top Left to Right:
Pak Kin YIP , Christine Nicolle BOOTH, Lydia Wai Yee FUNG.
Centre - Bacon LAM
Bottom Left to Right:
Jenny TO, Sui Yung KWOK , Joanne HUI , L. Fu CHEUNG

Dramatically I announced loudly to everyone at the party about my dream to represent HK to play in the World Bridge Championships in the near future. I'm lucky that after four years my dream has come true. I take this opportunity to express my faithful thanks to all my bridge friends who have helped me to achieve my dream and especially my bridge master Bacon and his simple and effective system.

Jenny

Bacon Lam

NPC Bacon says 'My student Jenny TO prepared her story above and I hope this can help promote a positive image for the sport 'Bridge' .

BBO
WBF WOMEN'S FESTIVAL

NEXT WOMEN'S FESTIVAL
THE AUTUMN FESTIVAL
NOVEMBER 6-12, 2023
(Monday to Sunday)

Winner of WBF Women's Spring Festival 2023 was Deborah Smith, New Zealand
Congratulations!

Click here for interview with Deborah

Anna Maria Torlontano, who championed Women's Bridge for its development, instigated the WBF/BBO online Women's Bridge Festival. To play in the Festival is an opportunity to network, form partnerships and teams and then compete to the highest level in Bridge. DO PLAY!

THANK YOU

PRESIDENT JAN KAMRAS

BBO

Registration, Schedule & Information

Click here

Prizes

Courtesy of WBF President, Jan Kamras:

- ✓ **Free entry to Women's Pairs in next WBF Open Championships for winner and partner of choice.**
- ✓ **WBF Online Master Points for the Festival's top 20 players.**
- ✓ **Signed certificates from the WBF for the top players in each event.**

Courtesy of BBO:

- ✓ **BB$ prizes for overall leaders.**
- ✓ **BB$ Daily Prizes. An opportunity to win prizes even if the top prize is no longer attainable.**
- ✓ **BBO Points awarded based on the size of the field.**
- ✓ **Free Celebration Fun Tournament with Video chat and Quiz to congratulate the winners for all participants on a date after the Festival.**

WBF WOMEN'S ONLINE

RealBridge

Purpose of this Teams event:

To provide an opportunity for international competitive bridge without potential limitations of cost or travel.

Let us know of your interest

by emailing
mkrwomen@gmail.com

Typical Timetable
(describe in UTC time)

Day 1 (subsequent days are variants)
AM: Oceania -> West Europe,
Early PM: Far East -> East Europe
Late PM: West Europe -> Americas
02:00: Americas -> Oceania

INVITATION TO WOMEN'S TEAM EVENT ON REALBRIDGE

Invitation

You are invited

to participate in a Teams event

on RealBridge

The initial information is as follows:

ENTRY	An entry form will be sent when interest is shown.
Entry Fee	The entry fee will be no more than $50 a team and is to cover overheads.
Format	The format of the Tournament depends on number of teams. It will probably be a Round Robin.
Schedule	To be decided when all teams are entered

Interested?

Let us know of your interest by emailing

mkrwomen@gmail.com

Liz McGowan

Liz has said of Venice Cup

'a unique experience, played, as always, in a friendly atmosphere'

VENICE CUP PLAYER - EBL HALL OF FAME

Liz, who has played Venice Cup many times and is well known amongst the World's best players, was inducted into the EBL Hall of Fame during the European Transnational Championships in Strasbourg (France), in June of this year.

You can read some(!) of her accomplishments written up on the EBL website by …

Clicking **here**

Team Scotland Venice Cup 2022
Liz McGowam, Anne Symons, Fiona McQuaker,
Fiona Greenwood, Samantha Punch
Brian Short (NPC), Andrew Symons (Coach), Julia Palmer

Teammates and Friends

Click here

for link to Championship Microsite for Results, Bulletins and Information

To KIBITZ

Click here

to watch anonymously (No account needed)

OR

Login to BBO to watch

www.lebridgeur.com