

Bridging SCBA



a monthly publication by the singapore contract bridge association

Aug 2023 • 25 pages

Upcoming Events

National Day Special Game Selangor Congress 2023 @
Wed, 9 Aug, SCBA (0930) **Royal Lake Club**
Sat/Sun, 9-10 Sep, Malaysia

Singapore National Bridge League Open House #6
Sat, 19 Aug, SCBA (1430) **SCBA AGM (Election Year)**
Mon, 11 Sep, SCBA (1430)

World Bridge Teams 2023
20 Aug – 3 Sep, Morocco **Matchpoint Teams 2023**
Sat, 16 Sep, SCBA (1000)

Singapore IMP Pairs 2023
Sat, 2 Sep, SCBA (1000) **Asian Games 2023**
23 Sep – 8 Oct, Hangzhou

Singapore National Bridge League Open House #7
Sat, 9 Sep, SCBA (1430) **Singapore National Bridge League Open House #8**
Sat, 23 Sep, SCBA (1430)

Contents

Editor's Note	2
Committee's Message	3-7
SCBA News	8-12
Glory Gallery	13-21
Calendar	22-24
Corporate Members + SCBA Officials & Directors	25

2 Editor's Note

Good day everyone!

Warmest greetings and welcome to our Aug 2023 issue of our SCBA Newsletter.

First and foremost, with the fast approaching of our 58th National Day 2023, we send warm wishes to every Singaporean and friends on this great occasion day. Let us raise our country's flag with the greatest of hearts on this glorious day and celebrate the independence of our nation with the highest of the spirits. Together we can reach new heights and make our country proud. Let us work hard to take Singapore to new heights. Cheers !

Happy Singapore National Day 2023 !

With this issue, we are thrilled to announce that we had successfully concluded our annual Mixed Pairs Championships as well as our prestigious Pesta Sukan Championships 2023 which saw huge healthy increase in all participation rates across all events. We sincerely would like to thank everyone for their kind participation. Same time, please also be informed that our annual IMP Pairs and Matchpoint Teams Championships 2023 competitions have been scheduled on Saturday, 2nd and 16th Sep 2023 respectively hence would appreciate to receive your warmest supports once again.

Last but not least, we do appreciate your continuous supports and are happy to have you as a reader of our wonderful newsletter. Do enjoy ! Cheers !



With warmest thanks / Gerald Cheo
geraldcheo@scba.org.sg

3 Committee's Message

Dear Bridge friends and members of SCBA,

Happy National Day and warmest greetings to all! As we find ourselves stepping into August, we're just one month away from the eagerly anticipated Asian Games. It's an honor to introduce the remarkable individuals who will be representing us in this grand event, scheduled to take place from September 27th to October 7th in Hangzhou, China.

SG Men's Team:

Teo Xue Heng, Timothy Wu, Bryan Yang, Linus Lee, Lam Cheng Yen & Zhang Yukun

Coach: Shi Hao Jun, China

NPC: Soh Siew Luie

Special mention to Kelvin Ng and Siew Kheng Hun who served as the reserve pair for the team.

This is a very young team with 4 of the 6 players still on their way home from Amsterdam with a silver medal adorned around their necks from the just concluded World Youth Bridge Team Championships held in Veldhoven (More about that later). Complemented by a very experienced pair in the form of Cheng Yen and Yukun, who have finished on the podium in the regional circuit quite regularly in the past 10 years their leadership and experience will be called upon to guide their young teammates. The team is rounded off by a very strong supporting cast in the form of Siew Luie who was the team captain in 2018's triumph as well as Shi Hao Jun, a very reputable winner from China who has been instrumental in growing the team. The pressure is on however as they are going in as the defending champions of the inaugural Asian Games Contract Bridge Men's Team event held in Jakarta, Indonesia. Let's hope they will be able to go from strength to strength and come back with another Gold medal in October!

4 Committee's Message

SG Mixed Team:

Seet Choon Cheng, Lam Ze Ying, Tan Sock Ngin, Luo Cheng, Loo Choon Chou & Gideon Tan

Coach: Simon De Wijs & Tim Verbeek, the Netherlands

NPC: Ke Jia *(Kelvin Ong will be serving as the NPC in China as there is a limit on the number of travelling officials)

Special mention to Toh Zhen Huai and Kho Jie Min who served as the reserve pair of the team and replaced one of the pairs when they could not make it for Asia Cup 2022 and was part of the team that finished with a silver medal for APBF 2023.

The SG mixed team is the most experienced team amongst the 3 teams that will be representing Singapore. They have it all and they have players who are no strangers to winning their CVs are stellar and many of them have represented and won multiple gold/silver medals in SEA Games 2011, Gold in Asia Cup 2014, Gold in Asian Games 2018, and most recently a silver medal in APBF 2023. Their supporting cast are no slouches either Simon and Tim have done it all in the international stage, winning many international and European events. Kejia is a serial winner in the local circuit as well so let's hope that this winning mentality will be able to propel the team past the finishing line and bring glory to the country in the form of an Asian Games Gold Medal!

Last but not least, we have the SG Ladies Team:

Jazlene Ong, Leong Jiamin, Low Siok Hui, Li Lan, Lim Jing Xuan & Selene Tan

Coach: Poon Hua

NPC: Kelvin Ong

Special mention to Yeo Hui Teng and Chan Yiu Lin who served as the reserve pair of the team and replaced some of the players in the recent APBF.

5 Committee's Message

The Singapore Ladies Team has not been doing too well in the regional circuit, but this team's performance has been inspiring to say the least. They lost to the eventual winners Chinese Taipei by less than 10 imps and finished 4th which is the highest finish in Asia for the Singapore Ladies team. They went from strength to strength and were 3rd after the first-round robin in APBF 2023 this year. Unfortunately, the team was decimated by COVID and had to give walkovers on the final day. Despite that a 5th placed finish says a lot about the potential of the team. Coach Poon Hua has been doing a great job, and I can tell you that he has been very impressed by the team's showing to date. It takes a lot to impress the man as he has seen it all and is still playing professionally in China (also speaking from experience). Kelvin Ong (yes that's me) has overseen most of Singapore's greatest youth teams since he took on the role of NPC and training for the youth setup. So, he hopes it will be business as usual and he will come home with a yet another medal to add to his collection.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the 3 Singapore youth teams who are on their way back to Singapore as we speak:

Singapore U26 team: Final standings: 2nd

Teo Xue Heng, Timothy Wu, Bryan Yang, Linus Lee, Gao Heng & Xu Nuoyi (She's 16 by the way)

Coach: Ang Shen Ting

NPC: Xu Jiening

Singapore U21 team: Final Standings: 19th

Pong Yi Zhen, Oh Li Wei, Goh You Yi, Tioh Jing Kai, Russell Siew and Wu Xinyue* (who was unable to make it in the end due to Visa and some issues)

Coach: Xu Jiening

NPC: Ang Shen Ting

6 Committee's Message

Singapore U31 team: Final Standings: 14th

Jazlene Ong, Low Siok Hui, Li Lan, Sean Teo, Derek Lee & Siew Kheng Hun.

As they always say, a picture speaks a thousand words (so it's great to end with 2 I guess as well as full newspaper report from the straits times!)



7 Committee's Message



An early happy National Day with this silver medal 🏆 Here is the link to the Straits Times Reporting on 9th August 2023

<https://www.straitstimes.com/sport/singapore-s-bridge-team-play-their-cards-right-to-clinch-silver-at-world-youth-championships>

Thank you Straits Times for the great feature on our National Day, 9th August 2023 !
Thank you for your continued support and participation in the bridge community.

Kelvin Ong, President, SCBA
president@scba.org.sg

1. Singapore Mixed Pairs Championships 2023

The annual Singapore Mixed Pairs Championships 2023 had been concluded and append herewith the top winners placements for all events.

Champion : Song Jun & Marie Jiang

1st Runners-up : Rajendra Krishnan & Chan Yiu Lin

2nd Runners-up : Alan Sia & Foo Yoke Lan

2. Singapore Pesta Sukan Championships 2023

The annual Singapore Pesta Sukan Championships 2023 had been concluded and append herewith the top winners placements for all events.

Mixed Pairs :

Champion : Lim Jing Xuan & Kelvin Ng

1st Runners-up : Marie Jiang & Song Jun

2nd Runners-up : Tan Sick Ngin & Gideon Tan

Open Teams :

Champion : Coup de Grace

(Team - Teo Xue Heng, Linus Lee, Zhang Yukun, Lam Cheng Yen, Timothy Wu & Bryan Yang)

1st Runners-up : AG Mixed

(Team - Gideon Tan, Loo Choon Chou, Tan Sock Ngin, Lam Zeying, Luo Cheng & Seet Choon Cheng)

2nd Runners-up : WeLoveBridge

(Team - Kelvin Ng, Siew Kheng Hun, Peter Haw & Liu Yuchen)

3rd Runners-up : Djarum Super Indonesia

(Team - Bert Toar Polii, Perry Sardjono, M Bambang Hartono, M Apin Nurhalim, Tanudjan Sugiarto & Paulus Sugandi)

Open Pairs :

Champion : Chen Chang Song & Ng Chun Tat

1st Runners-up : Li Lan & Low Siok Hui

2nd Runners-up : Li Ruiqi & Victor Loh

Warmest Congratulations to all winners. Cheers!

3. National Bridge League Round #5 to #9

The National Bridge League Round #6 to Round #9 games will be held as follow on 19th Aug 2023, 9th Sep 2023, 23 Sep 2023 and 14 Oct 2023 respectively at SCBA on Sat from 1430 hrs.

4. World Youth Bridge Teams Championships 2023

The annual World Youth Bridge Teams Championships 2023 will be held from 31st Jul – 7th Aug 2023 in Veldhoven, Netherland.

5. National Day Special Holiday Game

The National Day Special Holiday Game will be held on 9th Aug 2023, Wed at SCBA from 0930 hrs.

6. World Bridge Teams Championships 2023

The annual World Bridge Teams Championships 2023 will be held from 28th Aug to 3rd Sep 2023 in Marrakech, Morocco.

Please do join us in wishing all our National elite athletes all the best and good luck in their participation.

7. Singapore IMP Pairs Championships 2023

The annual Singapore IMP Pairs Championships 2023 will be held on 2nd Sep 2023, Sat at SCBA from 1000hrs.

8. Selangor Congress 2023 @ Royal Lake Club

The Selangor Congress 2023 @ Royal Lake Club will be held on 9th & 10th Sep 2023, Sat/Sun, in Selangor, Malaysia.

9. SCBA AGM (Election Year)

The annual SCBA AGM (Election Year) 2023 will be held online on 11th Sep 2023, Mon. Full details will be made available in due course.

10. Singapore Matchpoint Teams 2023

The Singapore Matchpoint Teams Championships 2023 will be held on 16th Sep 2023, Sat at SCBA from 1000 hrs.

Please do join us for utmost GREAT fun in Bridging the WORLD !

12. Beginner / Intermediate Course

If you have a friend who wants to learn and enjoy on how to play Bridge, do drop an e-mail to our following colleague address:

kelvin@scba.org.sg

12. Bridge Column

All readers are strongly encouraged to continue posing any questions through the editor account with any burning questions they may have.

In additionally, other columnists are also welcome to provide valuable input to the column. Please do send all relevant information to editor@scba.org.sg.

13. Sale of Logistics

With our past of hosting multiple Local and International BIG events, we do have some lightly-used logistics remained that we will make available to all our members at a much discounted price. Please do approach our club manager for full details of pricing and arrangement.

Do refer to the appendix for full price list details.

14. Membership Prices

Similar to the past years arrangement though we had been absorbing the costs of general inflation as well as providing you with an improved experience during and after all games. We will still maintain our membership prices as before, as for NOW, for the benefits of all members. Our annual membership prices are as follow : Ordinary Member at \$70, Student Member at \$30 and Corporate Member at \$200 per annual.

Do join us for utmost GREAT fun in Bridging the WORLD !

Donations to SCBA

**Enjoy a 250% deduction on taxable income by donating to SCBA.
Qualification for tax deduction is valid until further notice.**

Types of Tax Deductible Donations Available

1. Unrestricted donation to one of our three funds: General Fund, Bridge Development Fund, National Bridge League Fund
2. Restricted donation to set up a new fund for purposes dictated by the donor (SCBA will inform and seek the donor's opinion if the fund cannot be used)
3. Donations to name SCBA's events or programmes;
4. Donations where SCBA or its approved beneficiary acknowledges the donation by including the donor's name or logo in the SCBA's collaterals (e.g. banners, publications, advertisements). Examples would be Pesta Sukan Bridge Championships and future iterations of SEABCC and APBF if they are held in Singapore.

Claiming Tax Deductible Donations

Tax deduction is given for donations made in the preceding year. For example, if an individual makes a donation in 2023, tax deduction will be allowed in his tax assessment for the Year of Assessment (YA) 2024. The tax deductions for qualifying donations will be automatically reflected in the donor's tax assessments based on the information from the IPC (such as the donor's name, date and amount of donation on the tax deduction receipt).

To donate to SCBA, please approach our club manager for more details.



Bridgemate Scoring

for weekly games is now in full implementation

- Automatic player name entry via player numbers
 - No name errors
 - Know who you are playing against the next round
 - Reduce instances of wrong seatings
 - Personal analysis available on Bridgewebs
 - Linkage to online Masterpoint system (coming soon)
 - Implementation in Teams Events (coming soon)
 - Your player number in other clubs should work here too
- If you need a player number, drop a mail to <competition@scba.org.sg>

We are on Pianola Webs!

Online portal for all things Bridge

<https://www.scba.org.sg>

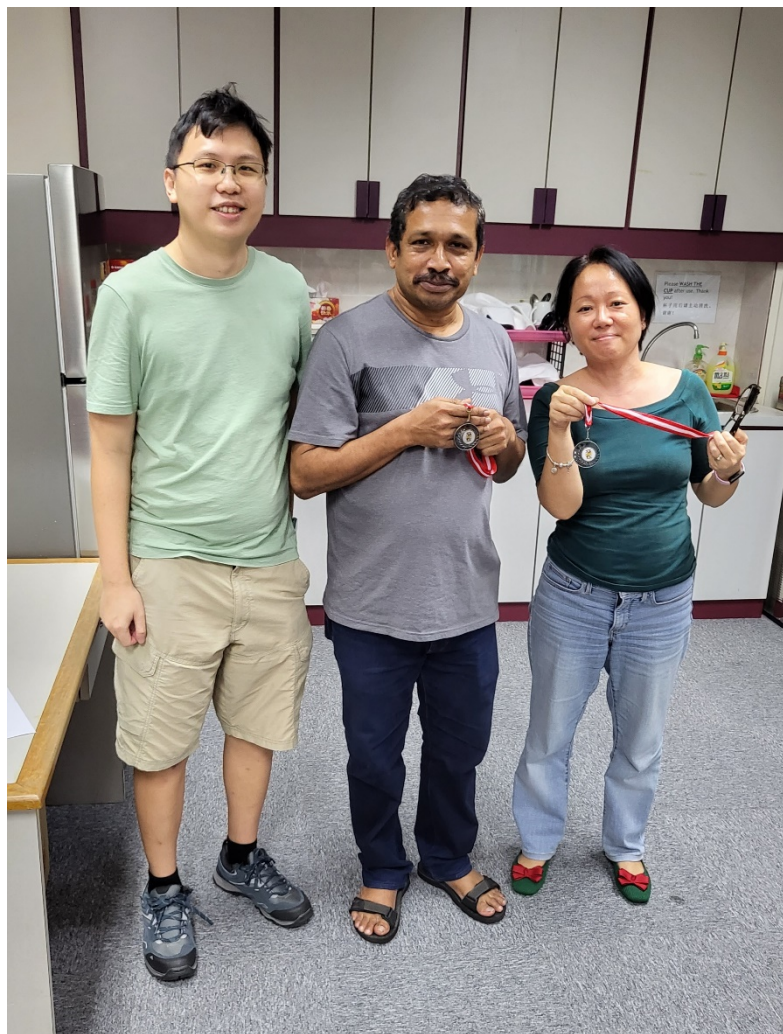
- Latest news and upcoming events
- Newsletter and tournament forms download
- Weekly game results immediately available after the games end
- Click on your own pair for personal analysis
- Review your bidding, play and defence online – anytime with your smartphone

Singapore Mixed Pairs Championships 2023



Singapore Mixed Pairs Championships 2023 : Champion – Song Jun & Marie Jiang Min

Singapore Mixed Pairs Championships 2023



Singapore Mixed Pairs Championships 2023 : 1st Runners-up – Rajendra & Chan Yiu Lin and 2nd Runners-up – Foo Yoke Lan & Alan Sia

Pesta Sukan Mixed Pairs Championships 2023



Pesta Sukan Mixed Pairs Championships 2023 : Champion – Kelvin Ng & Lim Jing Xuan and 1st Runners-up – Song Jun & Marie Jiang

Pesta Sukan Open Pairs Championships 2023



Pesta Sukan Open Pairs Championships 2023 : Champion – Chen Chang Song & Ng Chun Tat

Pesta Sukan Open Pairs Championships 2023



Pesta Sukan Open Pairs Championships 2023 : 1st Runners-up – Li Lan & Low Siok Hui and 2nd Runners-up –Victor Loh & Li Ruiqi

Pesta Sukan Open Teams Championships 2023



Pesta Sukan Open Teams Championships 2023 : Champion : Coup de Grace

Pesta Sukan Open Teams Championships 2023



Pesta Sukan Open Teams Championships 2023 : 1st Runners-up : AG Mixed

Pesta Sukan Open Teams Championships 2023



Pesta Sukan Open Teams Championships 2023 : 2nd Runners-up : We Love Bridge

Pesta Sukan Open Teams Championships 2023



Pesta Sukan Open Teams Championships 2023 : 3rd Runners-up : Djarum Super Indonesia

24 Oct Events Calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	Double 8 Pairs
8	9	10	11	12	13	National League Round #9
15	16	17	18	19	20	Singapore Mixed Teams
Singapore Mixed Teams	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

SCBA Weekly Games
 Monday – 9.30am
 Thursday – 9.30am
 Friday – 7.30pm
 Saturday – 10.00am (depends on availability)
 Sunday – 10.00am (depends on availability)

AMERICAN WOMEN’S ASSOCIATION
 Mon 1.00pm

KAMPONG KEMBANGAN CC, 5 Lengkong Tiga
 Mon, Thurs 7.00pm

NUS SPORTS & RECREATION CENTRE, Kent Ridge
 Crescent, MPSH 4. Mon, Thu 7.00pm

NUSS The Graduate Club, 1F Cluny Road.
 Every Wed 7.30pm at Bukit Timah Guild House
 Please contact Dr Siak at 9376 8816 to register in advance.

SINGAPORE ISLAND COUNTRY CLUB, 240 Sime Road
 Bridge @ The Niblick.
 Mon & Thurs 7.30pm. Wed 1.00pm

SINGAPORE JAPAN CLUB BRIDGE LEAGUE, 120 Adam
 Road. Tues 9.00 am

TANGLIN CLUB, 5 Stevens Road.
 Mon, Wed & Fri at 1pm

SINGAPORE CRICKET CLUB, Connaught Drive.
 Mon & Thurs at 7.00pm

SCBA Committee + Staff

Kelvin Ong President	96616828	president@scba.org.sg kelvin@scba.org.sg
Steve Robinson Honorary Secretary	63568540	secretary@scba.org.sg
Soh Siew Luie Honorary Treasurer	97268415	treasurer@scba.org.sg
Ang Shen Ting Competition Secretary	63568540	competition@scba.org.sg
Heng Aik Koan Assistant Treasurer	96183785	aikkoan@gmail.com
Tan Yoke Lan Assistant Competition Secretary	98358384	tanyokelan1948@gmail.com
Fabian Tan Committee Member	96430418	fabian@scba.org.sg
Rajendra Committee Member	91450963	raj@scba.org.sg
Vera Committee Member	91767440	vera@scba.org.sg
Amy Starling Committee Member	88761406	amy@scba.org.sg
Ke Jia Committee Member	63568540	kejia@scba.org.sg
Gerald Cheo Club Manager	63568540	geraldcheo@scba.org.sg

Director Roster

- Gerald Tan
- Jane Choo
- Derrick Heng
- Wong Chee Wai
- Franciska Ho
- Greta Chai
- Ang Shen Ting
- Tan Wen Yuan
- Joseph Kang
- Koh Luwen
- Kenneth Chan
- Peter Haw
- Gan Wei Kang
- Yeo Hui Teng
- Antoine Wong
- Siew Kheng Hun
- Koh Han Wei
- Kwok Jun Kiat

SINGAPORE CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION Local and Regional Calendar of Events 2023 (caa 12 Jun 2023)			
Month	Date	Event	Venue
JAN	2	New Year Charity Pairs	SCBA
	15	H S Ho Match 1	SCBA
	30	Hongbao Pairs	SCBA
FEB	11, 12, 18, 19	Mixed/Youth Trials (U25, U20, Girls)	SCBA
	25, 26	Mixed/Youth Trials Reserve Week	SCBA
MAR	4, 5, 11, 12	Open/Ladies/Seniors Trials	SCBA
	18, 19	Open/Ladies/Seniors Trials Reserve Week	SCBA
	19	H S Ho Match 2	SCBA
	25	33rd Singapore National Bridge League Open House #1	SCBA
APR	2	H S Ho Match 3	SCBA
	7-9	Easter Congress	SCBA
	15	33rd Singapore National Bridge League Open House #2	SCBA
	23	H S Ho Match 4	SCBA
	29, 30	Singapore Open Pairs	SCBA
MAY	1	Labour Day Special Game	SCBA
	6	33rd Singapore National Bridge League Open House #3	SCBA
	7	H S Ho Match 5	SCBA
	13, 14	Singapore Open Teams Qualifying	SCBA
	20, 21	Singapore Open Teams Championship Finals / Finals B	SCBA
	27	National Youth Pairs	SCBA
	28	H S Ho Match 6	SCBA
JUN	2	Vesak Day Special Game	SCBA
	6, 7	National Schools Teams	SCBA
	11	H S Ho Match 7	SCBA
	9-18	APBF Championships	Hong Kong
	24	33rd Singapore National Bridge League Open House #4	SCBA
	25	H S Ho Match 8	SCBA
JUL	29	Hari Raya Haji Special Game	SCBA
	8	Singapore Mixed Pairs	SCBA
	15, 16	H S Ho Finals	SCBA
	21-23	Pesta Sukan Congress	SCBA
	29	33rd Singapore National Bridge League Open House #5	SCBA
31-7 Aug	World Youth Bridge Team Championships	Veldhoven, NL	
AUG	9	National Day Special Game	SCBA
	19	33rd Singapore National Bridge League Open House #6	SCBA
	20-3 Sep	World Bridge Team Championships	Marrakech, MA
SEP	2	IMP Pairs	SCBA
	9	33rd Singapore National Bridge League Open House #7	SCBA
	9, 10	Selangor Congress @ Royal Lake Club	KL, MY
	11	SCBA AGM (Election Year)	SCBA
	16	Matchpoint Teams	SCBA
	23-8 Oct	Asian Games	Hangzhou, CN
OCT	23	33rd Singapore National Bridge League Open House #8	SCBA
	7	Double 8 Pairs	SCBA
	14	33rd Singapore National Bridge League Open House #9	SCBA
21, 22	Singapore Mixed Teams	SCBA	
NOV	4, 5	H S Ho Preliminary	SCBA
	13	Deepavali Special Game	SCBA
	18, 19	National Handicap Teams Championship	SCBA
DEC	2, 3	National Youth Teams Championship	SCBA
	11-15	South East Asia Bridge Championships	Singapore
	18	Christmas Pairs	SCBA
	25	Christmas Day Special Game	SCBA

Singapore Contract Bridge Association

Bridge Equipment For Sale

- With effective from 01 May 2023



Preowned Items For Sale

	<u>Qty</u>	<u>Total in SGD</u>
1 Bridge Cards	1 deck of 52 cards	1.00
2 Bridge Board in a set of 24 pieces with 24 deck of preowned cards	1 set of 24 boards with cards	96.00
3 Bridge Board in a set of 32 pieces with 32 deck of preowned cards	1 set of 32 boards with cards	128.00

Brand New Items For Sale

1 Bridge Cards	1 deck of 52 cards	3.00
2 Individual Bridge Board without sticker number	1 Board	10.00
3 Bridge Board in set of 24 pieces with 24 deck brand new cards	1 set of 24 boards with cards	240.00
4 Bridge Board in set of 32 pieces with 32 deck of brand new cards	1 set of 32 boards with cards	320.00
5 Bidding Cards with Box	Set of 4 boxes	50.00
6 Sticker Number for Bridge Board	1 pcs from No 1 to 16	5.00
7 Sticker Number for Bridge Board	1 pcs from No 16 to 32	5.00
8 SCBA Official Pens	1 Pen	1.00

SINGAPORE CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION PRESENTS



6TH SOUTH EAST ASIA BRIDGE CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

11-15 Dec 2023

York Hotel, Singapore

Events:

**Open Team
Ladies Team
Mixed Team
Senior Team
Youth Team
Open Pairs**

**Registration and further details
coming soon**



UNDER THE AUSPICES OF



HCL

20th HCL INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP

Celebrating **20** *Years*



PRIZE MONEY
₹26 Million
(USD 310,000)

October 31 - November 6, 2023

The Leela Ambience
Convention Hotel, Delhi

1, CBD, Maharaja Surajmal Marg,
(Near YAMUNA SPORTS COMPLEX),
Vishwas Nagar Extension, DELHI - 110032

Contact: Gaurav Sharma
Ph: +91 81309 90990

www.hcl-bridge.com

About HCL International Bridge Championship

Bridge is a strategy game that teaches one to be of a tougher mindset, to use one's intellect to maximum capacity, communicate powerfully and to pursue victory diligently. It is these qualities that makes bridge a perfect fit for HCL.

HCL has been strongly supporting the game in India since 2003 through the HCL International Bridge Championship held every year in New Delhi, India. The Championship is the premier bridge tournament in the country and the biggest In terms of the prize money and participation levels. The last championship in 2022 had a prize purse of Rs. 22 million. The previous editions of the tournament have witnessed participation by over 1000 players from 185 teams. International teams having players from USA, Poland, Italy, Bulgaria, Russia, Netherlands, Israel, Sweden, Iceland, South Africa, UK, Australia, New Zealand, Croatia, Denmark, Romania, Japan, Thailand, Jordan, Sri Lanka & Bangladesh have participated in the last few editions of the Championship.

The 20th HCL International Bridge Championship will be held from October 31 to 6th November 2023 at the Leela Ambience Convention Hotel. The total prize money has been increased this year by approximately 18% to Rs. 26 Million (USD 310,000), one of the highest across any Bridge tournament worldwide. The Championship will have three main events:

- Team of Four Gold- Winners will be awarded the 'Naresh Tandan Trophy'
- Team of Four Silver- Winners will be awarded the 'Mohini Tandan Trophy'
- Open Pairs- Winners will be awarded the 'Neena Bonarji Trophy'
- Being the 20th edition, there will be an special ProAm event on the last day of the tournament (6th Nov 23) in which Amateur player will partner a Professional player. The ProAm event will have a maximum of 36 pairs. Further details will be provided shortly to interested players. Those interested in ProAm event may please contact Mr. Sandeep Thakral on +91-9910034918.



THE PROGRAM



Tuesday, October 31, 2023



Time in Hour	Activity
	Note: There will be 2 parallel team events in Gold & Silver category.. See the criteria for Silver category participation in the "Notes for Participants". TEAM OF FOUR GOLD / SILVER EVENT - SWISS LEAGUE (5 Rounds of 10 Boards each)
1000 - 1015	Director's Announcements & Display of Draw for Team of Four Events
1020 - 1145	Round 1
1205 - 1330	Round 2
1330 - 1430	Lunch Break
1430 - 1555	Round 3
1615 - 1740	Round 4
1740 - 1810	Tea Break
1810 - 1935	Round 5



Wednesday, November 1, 2023



Time in Hour	Activity
	TEAM OF FOUR GOLD & SILVER EVENTS - SWISS LEAGUE Continues (5 Rounds of 10 Boards each)
1000 - 1125	Round 6
1145 - 1310	Round 7
1310 - 1410	Lunch Break
1410 - 1535	Round 8
1555 - 1720	Round 9
1720 - 1750	Tea Break
1750 - 1915	Round 10
1930 - 2000	Captain's meet for the Top 16 qualifying teams of the GOLD & SILVER event for Pre-QF knock out



Thursday, November 2, 2023



Time in Hour	Activity
	TEAM OF FOUR GOLD & SILVER - KO PRE-QUARTER FINALS (4*14 boards)
1000 - 1200	Session 1
1215 - 1415	Session 2
1415 - 1515	Lunch Break
1515 - 1715	Session 3
1715 - 1745	Tea Break
1745 - 1945	Session 4
	OPEN MP PAIRS - ELIMINATION 1 (3 Sessions of 18 Boards each)
1030 - 1300	Session 1
1300 - 1400	Lunch Break
1400 - 1630	Session 2
1630 - 1700	Tea Break
1700 - 1930	Session 3
1930 Onwards	Cocktails & Dinner (Hosted by HCL)
2015 - 2045	Draw of Lots for ProAm Tournament



Friday, November 3, 2023



Time in Hour	Activity
	TEAM OF FOUR GOLD & SILVER - KO Quarter Finals (4*14 boards)
1000 - 1200	Session 1
1215 - 1415	Session 2
1415 - 1515	Lunch Break
1515 - 1715	Session 3
1715 - 1745	Tea Break
1745 - 1945	Session 4
	OPEN MP PAIRS - ELIMINATION 2 (3 Sessions of 18 Boards each)
1030 - 1300	Session 1
1300 - 1400	Lunch Break
1400 - 1630	Session 2
1630 - 1700	Tea Break
1700 - 1930	Session 3
	MP PAIRS STRATA II (2 Sessions of 24 Boards each)
1100 - 1415	Session 1
1415 - 1515	Lunch Break
1515 - 1830	Session 2



Saturday, November 4, 2023



Time in Hour	Activity
	TEAM OF FOUR GOLD & SILVER - KO Semi Finals (4*14 boards)
1000 - 1200	Session 1
1215 - 1415	Session 2
1415 - 1515	Lunch Break
1515 - 1715	Session 3
1715 - 1745	Tea Break
1745 - 1945	Session 4
	OPEN MP PAIRS - ELIMINATION 3 and IMP PAIRS - ELIMINATION (3 Sessions of 18 Boards each)
1030 - 1300	Session 1
1300 - 1400	Lunch Break
1400 - 1630	Session 2
1630 - 1700	Tea Break
1700 - 1930	Session 3



Sunday, November 5, 2023



Time in Hour	Activity
	TEAM OF FOUR GOLD & SILVER - Finals (4*14 boards) & Play-Off
0900 - 1100	Session 1
1115 - 1315	Session 2
1315 - 1400	Lunch Break
1400 - 1600	Session 3
1615 - 1815	Session 4
	OPEN MP PAIRS- FINAL (GOLD & SILVER) - Barometer Scoring
0930 - 1300	Session 1
1300 - 1400	Lunch Break
1400 - 1745	Session 2
	IMP PAIRS - FINAL (2 Sessions of 24 Boards each)
1000 - 1330	Session 1
1330 - 1430	Lunch Break
1430 - 1745	Session 2
	IMP PAIRS STRATA - II (2 Sessions of 22 Boards each)
1030 - 1330	Session 1
1330 - 1430	Lunch Break
1430 - 1730	Session 2
1830	Prize Distribution & Closing Ceremony



Monday, November 6, 2023



Time in Hour	Activity
	Pro-Am Pairs Tournament (IMP Scoring) - Max 54 Boards
0930 - 1315	Session 1 (28 Boards)
1315 - 1400	Lunch Break
1400 - 1730	Session 2 (26 Boards)
1800	Prize Distribution

PRIZE MONEY

Event wise break-up of the total prize money:

TEAM EVENTS			PAIR EVENTS						SPECIAL EVENT
Rank	Gold	Silver	Rank	Open Pairs Gold	Open Pairs Silver	IMP Pairs	MP Pairs STRATA-II	IMP Pairs STRATA-II	ProAm IMP Pairs Event
1st	44,00,000	16,00,000	1st	12,80,000	2,00,000	2,00,000	80,000	80,000	6,00,000
2nd	24,00,000	9,60,000	2nd	8,40,000	1,50,000	1,50,000	50,000	50,000	4,00,000
3rd	12,50,000	4,80,000	3rd	6,40,000	1,20,000	1,20,000	36,000	36,000	3,00,000
4th	9,00,000	3,60,000	4th	4,80,000	80,000	80,000	24,000	24,000	1,80,000
5th to 8th	4,50,000	1,80,000	5th	3,20,000	60,000	60,000	18,000	18,000	1,40,000
9th to 16th	1,80,000	72,000	6th	2,50,000	40,000	40,000	12,000	12,000	1,00,000
17th to 20th	60,000	25,000	7th	2,00,000	30,000	30,000	10,000	10,000	80,000
			8th	1,50,000	20,000	20,000	8,000	8,000	60,000
			9th	1,00,000	15,000	15,000	7,000	7,000	50,000
			10th	90,000	10,000	10,000	6,000	6,000	40,000
			11th	75,000					30,000
			12th	60,000					20,000
			13th to 16th	50,000					
			Pairs Elim-1 & 2 (1st)	20,000					
			Pairs Elim-1 & 2 (2nd)	13,500					
			Best Mixed & Best Ladies Pair - 1st	20,000					
			Best Mixed & Best Ladies Pair - 2nd	15,000					
Total	1,24,30,000	47,96,000		48,22,000	7,25,000	7,25,000	2,51,000	2,51,000	20,00,000
Grand Total							2,60,00,000		

All figures are in Indian Rupees.

Note 1 - For international players, the final prize money will be converted as per the prevailing foreign exchange rates of the day. TDS will be deducted as per the prevailing Indian Income Tax rules

Note 2 - There are two prizes each for Best mixed and Ladies pairs in open MP Pairs event. For winning this prize pairs must reach Open MP Pairs final or 3rd elimination of MP Pair event.

ENTRY FEE

Team Entry -

- Team of Four Gold - Rs. 10,000 for 4 member team and Rs. 2000 for additional member
- Team of Four Silver - Rs. 8,000 for 4 member team and Rs. 1,500 for additional member

Note: In the Team of Four Gold and Silver events, the 16 teams qualified to play the KO stage will pay additional Rs. 3,000 per team.

- Open MP Pairs - Rs. 4,000 per pair
- Open MP Pairs STRATA II - No entry fee for this event. Non qualifiers from Match Point Pairs elimination-1 round can only participate in this event.
- IMP Pairs - Rs. 2,500 per Pair
- IMP Pairs Strata II - No entry fee for this event. Non qualifiers from IMP Pairs elimination round can only participate in this event.

Note: There will be a 50% concession on entry fee for a Team / Pair consisting of all under-30 players.

IMPORTANT NOTES FOR THE PARTICIPANTS

- In SILVER event, a team can have only **one “National Master or above level player”**, who will be treated as the team mentor. All other players should be below the rank of “National Master”. In case, a team is found to have more than one player above “National Master” level, the team will get scratched from Silver event.
- All foreign teams will participate in the GOLD event only, unless tournament committee gives them special permission to participate in “SILVER” category.
- The MPs to be considered for participation in the Silver event will be as on **15th Oct 2023**.
- The **TOP 26 pairs** from Elimination-3 round of MP Pairs will qualify for MP Pairs GOLD final, whereas **pairs ranked 27-52** will play in the MP Pairs SILVER final. The rest of the Elimination-3 qualifiers will be seeded to the IMP Pairs final.
- The Match Point Pairs STRATA - II is only for those non qualifiers, who could not qualify to the elim-2 round of the MP Pairs event. Similarly the IMP Pairs STRATA - II is only for those non-qualifiers, who have paid entry of IMP Pairs but could not qualify to the IMP Pairs Final. Any non-qualifier not interested to play the STRATA-II event is kindly requested to inform the same to TC Pant through WhatsApp (Mob: 9811094407) or personally at the venue.
- Registration for all events will only be done online. The Registration will be completed only once the payment of entry fee is made online through the payment gateway on the registration page.
- No entry for team event will be accepted after the stipulated closing time of **2000 hrs on Sunday, October 29, 2023**.

All teams are advised to register their entries in advance on website. The following persons can be contacted for any clarification:

T.C.Pant - Tel: +91 9811094407 Email: tcpant@hotmail.com

Sandeep Thakral - Tel: +91 9910034918 Email: sthakral@technalyse.com

Srinivasan Iyengar - Tel: +91 9974164676 Email: cardpacker@gmail.com

- **Closing time for entries of MP Pairs is 1430 hrs on Wednesday, November 1, 2023.**
- **Closing time for entries of IMP Pairs is 2030 hrs on Friday, November 3, 2023.**
- Sponsor will have a quota of **2 Pairs**, directly seeded to the MP Pairs GOLD Final.
- Participating players are required to take their seats as per the program; failure to do so will result in penalty.
- Displaying of properly filled convention cards at the table is compulsory. Copies of blank Convention cards will be made available at the venue.
- Players will be provided Lunch at the venue. Tea /coffee and snacks during scheduled tea breaks, will also be provided.
- Players are requested not to bring Tea/Coffee/Cold drinks/Lunch inside the playing arena.
- Please visit the Tournament web site **www.hcl-bridge.com** for accommodation details in nearby hotels and their contacts. Details will be updated around 1st August 2023.
- The applicable Supplementary Conditions of Contest (SCoC) will be published on the tournament web site **www.hcl-bridge.com** by 15th August 2023.
- Tournament will follow the WBF - 2017 Laws of Duplicate Bridge.
- The organizing committee has the right to change the tournament schedule and format, if deemed necessary.
- All prize money will be credited to the winner bank accounts within 15-20 days of the final day of the tournament.

Organizing Committee

ORGANIZING MEMBERS

Chairperson - Mrs. Kiran Nadar

Co-Chairman - Dr. Sutanu Behuria (President, BFI)

Organizing Secretary - Sandeep Thakral

Head of Operations - T C Pant

Marketing, Admin & Finance - Rajat Chandolia, Rakesh Kalra, S.S. Mishra & their teams

TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT

In-charge - T.C. Pant

Bulletin - Dr. Prakash Paranjape & Bhola Nath Das

Website - Sandeep Thakral & HCL Team

Bridgemates & Scoring - Srinivasan Iyengar & Kaustubh Deodhar

Dealing - Chetan Raval, SRC Sekar and Team

BBO Vu-Graph - Pramod Samant & Team

TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS

Head TD - Laurie Kelso (Head TD, WBF)

Joint CTD - M.B.V. Subrahmanyam, Pranab (Ranju) Bhattacharya

TDs: - VK Sharma, Sanjay Chakraborty, Gora Roy Choudhary, Narasinga Rao, K.S. Swaminathan, Daxindas, Sathish Kumar



Celebrating **20** *Years*

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

Contents

24 Venice Cup Teams

Mark Horton – Death in Venice

Jill Meyers – Record 4 time Venice Cup

Champion – ACBL Hall of Fame - Interview

Sophia Baldysz - Poland

Anne-Lill Hellemann – Norway

Janice Seamon-Molson - Champion - Interview

Marc-Andre Fourcaudot – Women Choose -
Canada

Lone Bilde – Big Dreams - Norway

Dilek Yavaş - Türkiye

David Harari – France

Linnea Edlund – Sweden

Helen Kruger – South Africa

Adam Grossack – Meet USA1

Annaïg Della Monta - Germany

Hila Levy & Adi Assouline – Israel

Jenny TO- Bacon Lam- Hong Kong China

WBF Women's Online

BBO - WBF Women's Festival

RealBridge - Invitation & Proposal

Liz McGowan – EBL Hall of Fame

Contributors – Thank You

VENICE CUP 24 TEAMS



DENMARK



FRANCE



GERMANY



ISRAEL

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



POLAND



SWEDEN



TURKIYE

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



USA



USA



ARGENTINA

Louise BERTHIAUME	Giorgia BOTTA	Lynn BAKER	Ana Maria DE ALONSO
Sondra BLANK	Margie COLE	Hjordis EYTHORSDDOTTIR	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
Kamel FERGANI (Coach)		Sam DINKIN (Coach)	Ana Maria MARCHESE (Coach)



BRAZIL



INDIA



UAE



BARBADOS

Aline BIONDILLO	Kalpna BALIRAM GURJAR	Anshu AGGARWAL	Patricia GREENIDGE
Paula CORREA	Puja BATRA	Chhaya GANDHI	Roglyn HINDS
Lucia DORIA	Bharati DEY	Rubinder Kaur KOCHAR	Adelle SPRINGER
Sylvia MELLO	Alka KSHIRSAGAR	Kumkum KUMAR	Norma SPRINGER
Graca PONCIONI	Vidhya PATEL	Manju LAW	Amanda STOREY
Isabella VARGAS DE ANDRADE	Asha SHARMA	Rupinder Kaur WALIA	Roglyn HINDS PC
Bernardo Simoes CORREA NPC	Anal SHAH NPC&Coach	Vandana VALRANI NPC	
		Darshan VALRANI Coach	



CHINA



CHINA TAIPEI



HONG KONG CHINA



AUSTRALIA

Yan HUANG	Yin-Shou CHEN	Christine Nicolle BOOTH	Nazife Margaret BASHAR
Yan LIU	Kuan-Chu HSIAO	L. Fu CHEUNG	Helena DAWSON
Jing Rong RAN	Yin-Yu LIN	Lydia Wai Yee FUNG	Kinga MOSES
Xiuting YU	Pei-Hua LIU	Joanne HUI	Jenny THOMPSON
Meiling ZHOU	Violet LIU	Sui Yung KWOK	Avril ZETS
Xiaoxue ZUO	Ming-Ching YANG	Jenny TO	Catherine (Runmei) ZHANG
Yannan WANG NPC	Yin-Shou CHEN NPC	Bacon LAM NPC	Peter Walter BUCHEN NPC
Xin Li (Coach)	Nai Jeng SHEN (Coach)	Pak Kin YIP (Coach)	Allison Joan STRALOW (Coach)



NEW ZEALAND



EGYPT



MOROCCO



SOUTH AFRICA

Jan ALABASTER	Christina AUDICHE	Hayet HACHIMI	Vanessa ARMSTRONG
Andi BOUGHEY	Dina ELAWADY	Leila KABBAJ	Nicola Mae BATEMAN
Christine GIBBONS	Marguerite HOMSY	Khadija MARRAKCHI	Roz BERNSTEIN
Jenna GIBBONS	Noheir OMAR	Graziella NABIL	Sharon LANG
Pam LIVINGSTON	Hoda SOLIMAN	Leila SEKKAT	Anastasia NESTORIDIS
Carol RICHARDSON NPC	Nada WATTAR	Samira TEBER	Carol STANTON
Kris WOOLES (Coach)	Mahmoud ZAITOUN NPC	Hayet HACHIMI PC	Roz BERNSTEIN PC
	Dina ELAWADY Coach)		

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 Eythorsdottir,
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.



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.



Q: Another topic at the BAMS 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 mis-scored 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.



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!

Sophia Baldysz

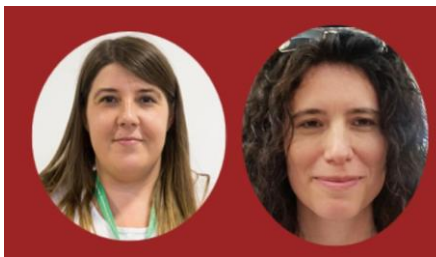


Team Salcomaggiore 2022

Board 25, Dealer North. E-W Vulnerable.

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

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 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.

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!



Team Baker – USA2

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



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 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..

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.

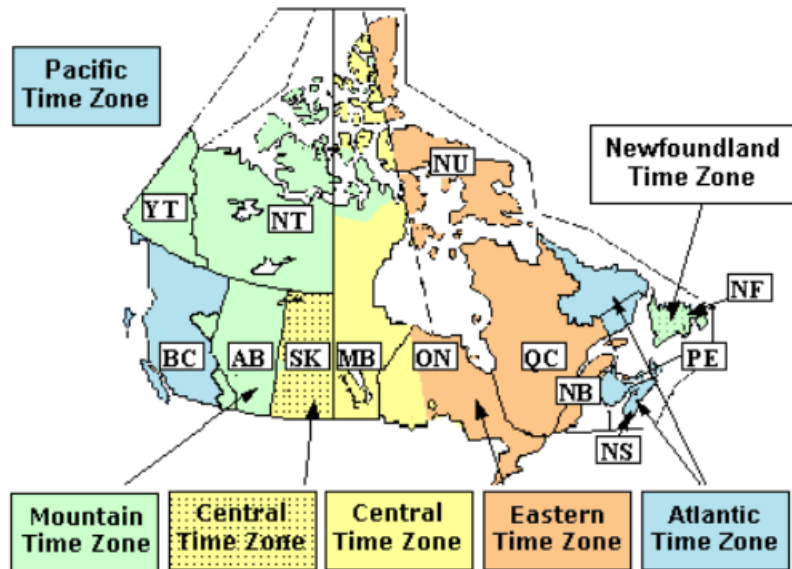


Susan Culham and Kismet Fung form a pair that has enjoyed multiple successes over the past fifteen years, and are proud representatives of the Alberta - Mountain Time Zone.



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.

ONLINE BRIDGE HAS GREATLY HELPED



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 Moroccan 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 coincidences 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, Asli Acar,
Berrak Erkan, Tuna Elmas, Ozlem
Kandolu, M.Gokhan Yilmaz(NPC)



Hatice Ozgur player & M.Gokhan
Yilmaz(NPC)

TURKIYE – Meet the Team



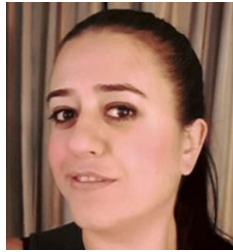
Dilek Yavaş

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.

France at the Venice Cup

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...



The 2023 team



L to 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

Message from Helen Kruger South Africa



SWEDEN – DEFENDERS WUHUN 2019 -SALSOMAGGIORE 2022



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

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.

Annaig Della Monta writes



The German Ladies - On the Way to Marrakesh



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 sessions 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?

The Team (left to right): Ingrid Gromann, Karin Wenning, Eckhard Böhlke (Coach), Kathryn Herz (NPC), Annaig 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.

All the best in Marrakech.

Annaig

Annaig 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



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

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



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

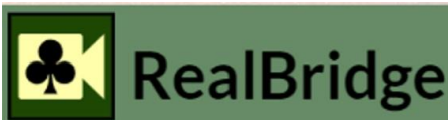
Courtesy of WBF President, Jan Kamras:

- ✓ 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



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



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](#)



Liz has said of Venice Cup

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

Team Scotland Venice Cup 2022
Liz McGowan, 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

The advertisement for Bridge Rama+ magazine features a large blue and yellow background. The title 'BRIDGE RAMA+' is prominently displayed in white and yellow. To the right, it says 'DISCOVER FOR FREE THE MAY ISSUE OF OUR MAGAZINE'. Below this, there are images of the magazine cover and an open magazine. The cover features a woman's face and the headline 'GETTING OUT UNSCATHED'. The open magazine shows articles like 'SHARPEN YOUR SYSTEM' and 'NO MALWARE FOR MALINOWSKI'. A pink starburst graphic on the right says '-20% EXCEPTIONAL DISCOUNT'. At the bottom, there is a QR code and the text 'In celebration of the World Championships, we are also offering you an exceptional discount of 20% on the annual subscription using the code MARRA23'. A small note at the bottom left says '*Offer valid until 15/09/23'.