



EBL

Junior Review

January-June 1998

No. 5

Editor: Panos Gerontopoulos

VIENNA WELCOMES EUROPEAN JUNIORS

VIENNA, the capital of Austria, and one of the most beautiful cities in the world, is preparing to welcome young players from all over Europe who will gather to participate in the **16th European Youth Championships**, to be held in the magnificent **Wiener Rathaus** (Vienna City Hall), 16-26 July 1998.

The Championships consist of two series: the **Juniors** (for players born in 1973 or later) and the **Schools** (for players born in 1978 or later). Both series are open to all member countries of the *European Bridge League*. Each country may participate in the Championships represented by its national team in either or both series.

The format of the Championships is a simple round robin in each series, which allows every team to face all other teams once. Matches are played over 20 boards.

Participating teams have a European title and a prestigious trophy at stake: the **David Pigot Cup**, awarded to the first team of the **Junior** series, and the **José Damiani Trophy**, given to the winner of the **Schools** series.

In addition, the **Junior** series acts as Europe's qualifier for next year's **World Junior Team Championship**. This is a competition between teams representing the seven geographical zones of the *World Bridge Federation*. Europe takes part with the first **four** teams of the **Junior** series.

Holding a tournament in Vienna is a commendable event, and participants will have the opportunity to enjoy one of the most beautiful cities in the world.

The Championships venue - the **Vienna City Hall** - is in itself a sight right at the heart of the Austrian capital, constituting one of its many magnificent buildings, like the *Vienna State Opera*, the *Museum of Fine Arts*, the *Parliament*, the *National Theatre* and the *University*, that line the *Ring* Boulevard. Inside this *Ring* is the old city with *St. Stephen's Cathedral*, the *Imperial Palace* and many other majestic buildings dating from the time of the Monarchy.

Between a walk and a shopping spree in the pedestrian precincts of the city centre, one welcomes a rest at one of the city's tradition-steeped coffee houses where Vienna's famous cakes and coffee specialities can be tasted.

Vienna is full of parks, and one can enjoy the extensive woodlands and meadows of the *Prater* and the *Vienna Woods* which extend right to the outskirts of the city. The *Danube island* is a meeting point for young and old alike.

The summer of 1998 is a very special period for Vienna, as Austria takes over the presidency of the *European Union*, July 1. At the same time, the city will be commemorating the 100th anniversary of the death of Empress Elisabeth, affectionately referred to as '*Sissi*'



The famous **Wiener Rathaus** (Vienna City Hall), the most outstanding venue to ever host an official bridge Championship worldwide.

and already a legend in her own lifetime. There will be many exhibitions devoted to her.

For those who like **music**, Vienna is a must, as its variety is simply unrivalled. This summer's pro-

gramme includes Mozart's opera '*The Abduction from the Seraglio*' in the gardens of *Schönbrunn Palace*, the music film festival '*Karajan & Bernstein*' on *Rathausplatz*, Roman Polanski's musical '*Dance of the Vampires*', and many more.

EUROPEAN JUNIOR TEAMS TAKE ALL MEDALS IN 61

EUROPE STILL HOLDS THE ACES



Silver medalist **NORWAY**: Björn Morten **MATHISEN**, coach Harald **SKJÆREN**, Christer **KRISTOFFERSEN**, Boye **BROGELAND**, Espen **ERICHSEN**, Øyvind **SAUR**, Thomas **CHARLSEN**, npc Sten **BJERTNES**



Bronze medalist **RUSSIA**: Yuri **KHIOPPENEN**, npc Michael **ROSENBLUM**, Arseni **CHOUR**, Dmitri **LOBOV**, Boris **SAZONOV**, Alexander **PETROUNINE**, Yuri **KHOKHLOV**

The history of the **World Junior Bridge Teams Championship** starts in 1987 in Amsterdam with only five teams competing. This number grew with time and ten years later a record 18 teams from all seven of the **World Bridge Federation's** geographical zones competed for the Junior crown in **Hamilton, Canada**, 4-13 August 1997.

The first stage of the event was a single round robin with each team playing each other, after which the best four would meet in a knockout semifinal and final for the title.

The tournament started with the opening ceremony which was attended by the WBF President **José Damiani** and many authorities of the **American Contract Bridge League**, the **Canadian Bridge Federation** and the City of Hamilton. In his welcome speech **Panos Gerontopoulos**, Chairman of the **WBF Youth Committee**, welcomed all competing teams and proudly announced the record participation. Mr **Damiani** spoke enthusiastically about Junior bridge which is high on the agenda of priorities of the WBF, and declared the championship open.

During the tournament many well-known guests visited the site, headed by former WBF President **Bobby Wolff**, WBF Treasurer **George Retek** and WBF Executive **Barbara Nudelman**. Their presence stressed the growing importance of Junior Bridge worldwide.

The players were happy with the conditions they found in the **Convention Centre** of Hamilton. The hospitality team tried to take care of everybody's wishes, the playing rooms were spacious, the Vugraph was well attended and the matches ran smoothly. The Appeals Committee under the chairmanship of WBF Executive **Joan Gerard** had therefore an easy task to deal with only a few appeals, which has been a tradition in Junior events for years now anyway.

Halfway through the round robin six teams were moving away from the field and it was clear that the four semifinalists would be found among them. **Denmark** took an early lead due to a strong performance but in the end had to fight to come in fourth behind **Russia**, **Norway** and **Canada Red**, only a few victory points ahead of **USA 2** and **China**.

FINAL	
DENMARK	247
NORWAY	178
3rd PLACE PLAYOFF	
CANADA RED	152
RUSSIA	193

SEMIFINALS	
CANADA RED	138
NORWAY	173
DENMARK	164
RUSSIA	159

1997 WORLD JUNIOR BRIDGE TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP



The new World Junior Champions, **DENMARK**: Jakob RØN, Mik KRISTENSEN, Mikkel NØHR, Lars Lund MADSEN, Fred BRØNDUM, coach Nicolai KAMPMANN, Morten Lund MADSEN, non-playing captain Kirsten Steen MØLLER

The local organizers under **John Carruthers** made sure that the players from all over the world saw more of Canada than just Hamilton. They offered a trip to Toronto with the day ending with a barbecue, that gave people a chance to socialize and get to know each other better. The touristic highlight of the days in Hamilton though was a trip to *Niagara Falls* where the Juniors were able to see one of the natural wonders of the world. A perfect day with a perfect outing, a real memory to carry home!

Nevertheless there were still four teams left who could not yet enjoy their leisure time to full extent. **Russia** as winner of the round robin decided to play **Denmark** in the semifinals and started with a carry-over of 12 IMPs into the

match. The second match saw **Canada Red** playing **Norway** with a 0.7 Imp carry over in favor of the Canadians.

The two matches proved to be quite different. While **Norway** was taking an early lead and **Canada Red** never really succeeded in getting back into the match, the lead in the **Russia-Denmark** match changed all the time. In the end **Denmark** scored a 5 IMP victory defeating the Russians 164-159. **Norway** in the other match outscored **Canada** 173-138.7

While **Russia** beat **Canada Red** 193-152 to win the bronze medal, the audience in the Vugraph saw a Scandinavian showdown for silver and gold. And they witnessed the Danish revenge for *Cardiff '96* where **Norway** had won the Euro-

pean Junior Teams. Only in the beginning of the final the scores were even, then **Denmark** moved ahead and won convincingly 247.7-178.

At the closing ceremony **Panos Gerontopoulos** presented the Canadian handicraft prizes and the **Ortiz-Patiño Trophy** to the winning team and thanked the Canadian organizing committee under the leadership of **John Carruthers** for all the efforts they had put forward to make the tournament the great success it really was.

Hamilton '97 proved that Europe is still the leading power in Junior Bridge, but **Canada**, **USA** and **China** may narrow the gap and become an upcoming threat in the near future.

Stefan Back

ROUND ROBIN

1	RUSSIA	322.4
2	NORWAY	312
3	CANADA RED	308.5
4	DENMARK	307
5	USA 2	292.5
6	CHINA	287.5
7	CANADA WHITE	271
8	ISRAEL	262.5
9	JAPAN	247.5
10	AUSTRALIA	242.5
11	BRAZIL	237
12	CHINESE TAIPEI	236.5
13	INDIA	225.5
14	GUAD./MARTINIQUE	220
15	USA 1	201.6
16	ARGENTINA	196
17	COLOMBIA	187
18	PAKISTAN	146

MASTER POINTS BROGELAND LEADS JUNIOR RACE

BOYE BROGELAND of Norway is the indisputable leader in the Master Points race for Junior players of the European Bridge League.

According to the latest list released by the EBL Master Points Committee, at the end of the 1996-97 season, **BROGELAND** had won 223 European Master Points (EMP). This placed him well at the top of the list, 73 EMPs ahead of **Alexander Petrounine** of Russia, the runner-up.

BROGELAND is the only Junior who has the rank of *European Master*. This title is awarded to those who have acquired 200 EMPs, of which at least 10 EMPs must have been earned at EBL or WBF tournaments.

BOYE BROGELAND is 24 years old and single; he studies Economics at the University of Bergen, Norway. In 1995 he was *Junior champion* in Norway. He also won the *Nordic Junior Championship* and a few months later the *1st World Junior Pairs Championship*, partnering **Geir Helgemo**.

1996 was an important year for Boye. He started by retaining the title of *Norwegian Junior champion*, and in the summer he became European champion when his team won at the *European Junior Teams Championship* in



Cardiff. In the autumn he made it to the Norwegian Open Team and earned valuable experience playing at the *World Olympiad* in Rhodes.

In 1997, **BROGELAND** was once again selected to represent his country and was proud to win the bronze medal at the *European Open Team Championships*, in Montecatini. One month later, he took part in the *2nd World Junior Pairs Championship*, finishing third, and in August he won the silver medal at the *World Junior Teams Championship*, in Hamilton. Finally, in October, he competed in the world's top competition, the *Bermuda Bowl*, where Norway ended up third behind two extremely strong teams.

The current list contains Master Points won until 30 June 1997. Boye's outstanding total will be further increased by quite a margin when no less than three world medals are added up for the second semester of the year!

TOP EUROPEAN JUNIORS

1	Boye BROGELAND	223	NOR
2	Alexander PETROUNINE	160	RUS
3	Gábor WINKLER	111	HUN
4	Morten Lund MADSEN	108	DEN
5	David FOHRER	107	ISR
6	Jacob RØN	100	DEN
7	Lars Lund MADSEN	94	DEN
8	Martin de KNIJFF	83	SWE
9	Bartosz CHMURSKI	76	POL
10	Steinar JÓNSSON	66	ICE
11	Eran SHACHAM	64	ISR
12	Amir LEVIN	61	ISR
13	Jaanus MARIPUU	55	EST
14	Yavin ZACK	54	ISR
15	Thomas CHARLSEN	53	NOR
16	Povilas LUKINSKAS	48	LTH
17	Asaf AMIT	47	ISR
18	Aris FILIOS	46	GRE
19	Freddi BRØNDUM	45	DEN
20	Magnús MAGNÚSSON	44	ICE
21	Jérôme ROMBAUT	43	FRA
22	Mike VANDERVORST	42	BEL
23	Arnoud OLTMANS	41	NLD
24	Christer KRISTOFFERSEN	40	NOR
25	Véronique DRIESSENS	39	BEL
26	Mik KRISTENSEN	38	DEN
27	Øyvind SAUR	37	NOR
28	Jaap BRULLEMAN	36	NLD
29	Anders ØSTERGAARD	34	DEN
—	Dmitrij LOBOV	34	RUS
31	Friso ZWERVER	33	NLD
32	Stig ANDERSEN	32	DEN
—	Tore SKOGLUND	32	NOR
34	Matti NIEMI	31	FIN
—	Sigurbjörn HARALDSSON	31	ICE
36	Arseni CHOUR	30	RUS
37	Ricco van PROOIJEN	27	NLD
38	Asa LEVINGER	26	ISR
—	Ran SCHNEIDER	26	ISR
40	Simon de WIJS	25	NLD
41	Tryggvi INGASON	24	ICE
—	Ragnar JÓNASSON	24	ICE
43	Julien GEITNER	23	FRA
—	Ylva JOHANSSON	23	SWE
45	Yaniv WAX	22	ISR
—	Leon JACOBS	22	NLD
47	Dominique FONTENEAU	21	FRA
48	Bogi SIMONSEN	20	FAI
—	Stefan SOLBRAND	20	SWE
50	Tanel KÕIVUPUU	19	EST

JUNIOR TRIATHLON IN LILLE

An unusual but attractive event, addressed exclusively to Junior players, will be part of the *1998 World Championships*, scheduled to take place in *Lille, France*, this summer.

A *Bridge Triathlon* consists of a teams tournament, a pairs tournament and an individual. Each tournament is a separate event, but there will be a combined ranking according to one's final place in each event.

The Teams tournament will take place August 23-25, followed by the pairs, August 26-27, and the individual August 28. All Junior players are welcome. There are no entry fees and cheap accommodation will be arranged.

CAMP IN AMERICA

The ACBL will organize a Junior Camp this summer, immediately after the *1998 North American Summer National Championships* which will take in Chicago, 23 July - 2 August.

This is in continuation of the very successful experiment of the previous ACBL Camp, held in Florida, in the summer of 1996.

Details of the Camp are not yet available but it is expected that it will take place in the vicinity of Chicago. The most likely dates are August 3-9.

As before, Europe will be represented in the Camp. Information will be available by the *EBL Youth Committee* soon.