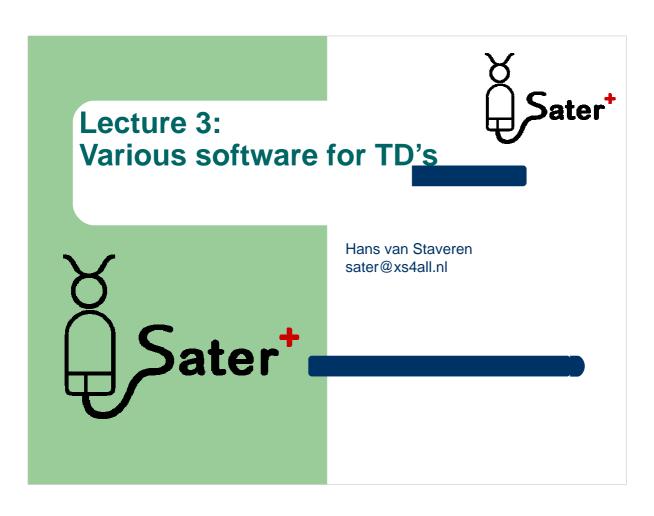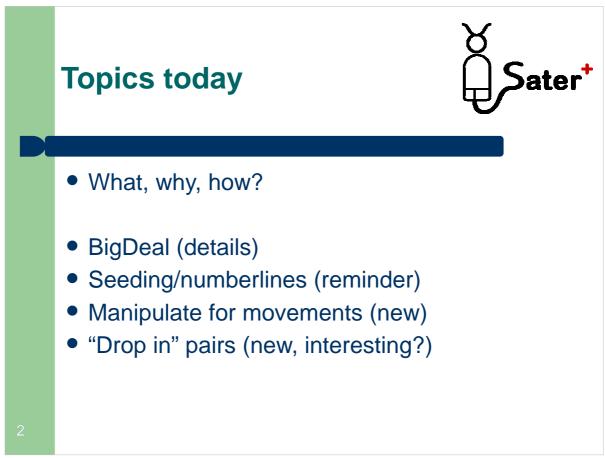# EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE

9th EBL Main Tournament Directors Course
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Bad Honnef – Germany

VARIOUS SOFTWARE FOR TDs

by **Hans van Staveren**

Lecture 3:
Various software for TD's

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Topics today

- What, why, how?

- BigDeal (details)
- Seeding/numberlines (reminder)
- Manipulate for movements (new)
- "Drop in" pairs (new, interesting?)

What, why, how?

- Various software for TD's
  - Dealing, seeding, movements
- I write bridge software because it is fun
- Most of the time it is just a serious hobby
- Very rarely do I get paid for it

- Download from website, or E-mail me

BigDeal

- De facto standard dealing program
- In use by EBL,WBF, etc since 2000
- No changes, should run at least until 2025
  - If it ain't broke, don't fix it
- Ported to be a Windows command line application: still from Command Prompt!
- Now runs on 64-bit OSes
  - Not on DOS anymore

BigDeal, cont..

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- The Australian dealer4 machine now comes with software that includes BigDeal code
- I helped, and reviewed code, and tested

- It works
- Freely available GUI program

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Seeding/numberlines

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- Demonstrated 2009, San Remo
- Software for tournament organisers
- From single stage tournaments to preliminary/QF/SF/F
- Which contestants go into what group on what position?

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S/N, cont…

- Seeding makes groups of contestants
  - Average strength
  - Balanced in country (for example)

- Numberlines renumbers within a group
  - To prevent late meetings of same country contestants

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S/N, cont…

- Programs are intended to integrate into scoring software

- Are also usable standalone, by down to earth users
  - Spreadsheet savvy, not afraid of .csv files, concept of standard input/output

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Manipulate movements

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- Recent software
- Called 'manipulate' for want of better name
  - Suggestions welcome
- Can read, modify and write movements
  - Pairs and individual(not combined   )
- Think about something like:
  - Take this movement, add a rover table, delete last round, renumber pairs, and save

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Some features of manipulate

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- Combine movements
  - Horizontal(same rounds, add tables)
  - Vertical(same tables, add rounds)
- Change movement to barometer
- Generate movement internally
  - (Expanded) Mitchell(odd, skip, relay)
  - Endless Howell (Barometer Howell)
  - Vasneg(Dutch standard)

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More features

- Read description file of movement from HHJ and generate
- Add rover/stayer table(s)
- Add arrow-switch(es)
- Run 'balans' software from Peter Smulders
- Change movement to fix boards on tables
- Change movement to keep contestant(s) on table(s)

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More more features

- Renumber anything to anything
  - Rounds, tables, boards, contestants
- Remove rounds, remove tables
- And finally split resulting movement both horizontally and/or vertically

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Demo manipulate

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- Some random things

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Drop in pairs

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- The idea is that for some players the current way of playing bridge is too rigid
- You have to start all at once
- You stop all at once
- You have to continue playing

- I thought of drop in pairs software to end this rigidity(Dutch official name: flexible bridge)

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Goals for players

- Any pair can enter the session at any time
- Any pair can drop out basically at will
  - Even pausing for some round(s) and coming back
- Any pair present and willing will play round
  - Half tables could of course occur, we'll get to that
- Any pair will get new boards each round
- Any pair will usually get new opponents each round

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Goals for boards

- Every board played about the same number of times, good frequencies
- Boards stay on table if possible
- Otherwise, preferably one pair stays at table
- Duplicated boards are strictly optional
- Slightly more board-sets than rounds is probably best

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Goals, continued

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- Some sort of stratified lineup possible
- Eventually(but not now) this should run without a dedicated TD
- Bridgemate II is handy, but not required
- Integration into national standard scoring program should be possible

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Demo

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- Integration in Dutch scoring program is done
  - Beta trials done for about a year
- Software is now available to all Dutch clubs
- First clubs start to experiment

- Players are told by BM II or posted print where to go
- Ok, brace yourself…

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Future goals

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- Lineup depending on ranking
- Lineup with players fixed on tables
- Automatic entry(barcodes??)
- Automatic reserve pair, if present
- Leaving session by entry on Bridgemate
- Better balance of generated movement
    - Will always be pretty marginal
- Individual entry(split pairs during session)

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Who should not use this?

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- Serious tournaments
- Clubs that like equal start and stop times
    - At what time does the chairman make his speech?

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Implementation and availability

- This is implemented as a DLL with defined interface(DLL does not keep history!)
- Dutch scoring program links to it
- Other scoring programs could do that too
- Making this software was paid for by the Dutch Bridge Federation, they have all NL rights and some other rights
- If you want it, contact them(I get a cut)

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Questions?

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