

5th International Bridge Festival MADEIRA

Funchal, November 11-18, 2002

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Editor: Jaap van der Neut

WELCOME TO MADEIRA 2002

You are coming from all over Europe for this 5th edition of the Madeira Bridge Festival. Although last week's weather was even better the Madeira sun will be a welcome change from the rain and cold of Northern Europe. The festival will be truly international. The current World & European Champion, team Lavazza of Italy, will be here for the team tournament. These are players you rarely have a chance to meet let alone to play against. But there are more World Champions around. Bep Vriend & Marijke van der Pas (Netherlands) have won the Venice Cup in 2000 (= World Ladies Teams Champion). I hope I didn't forget anyone. I have seen more famous names on the entry list.

But this tournament is not only about champions. As anybody who has been here before will tell you, this is a friendly festival on a friendly island. Carlos Luis, Miguel Teixeira and all the Club Sports da Madeira will take care of you. As Carlos said in his short speech at the opening cocktail yesterday:

"Enjoy your bridge, enjoy your stay"

PROGRAM FOR THE NEXT THREE DAYS

Tuesday 12 th	3.30 PM	Entries for the open pairs
	4 PM	Open pairs - 1 st session
Wednesday 13 th	4 PM	Open pairs - 2 nd session
	8 PM	Busses leave for the dinner
	9 PM	Typical dinner and folklore
Thursday 14 th	4 PM	Open pairs - 3 rd session
	8.30 PM	Open pairs final results

Yesterday's Warm-Up Pairs

Local Results

1.	Martins Soares	Jose M Gouveia	Pt	63.64
2.	Maria Tulonen	Ari Popponen	Fin	62.31
3.	Donk	v.d. Hoeven	NL	59.85
4.	Lucia Grosmann	Ger de Boer	NL	59.66
5.	Hennie van Beck	Magda Raes	NL	58.33
6.	Hoogland	Beyer	NL	57.77
7.	Armi Koistinen	Kari Koistinen	Fin	57.39
8.	J ter Linden	M Jurg	NL	55.68
9.	Maria Corte-Real	Jose Moraes	Pt	54.55
10.	Ines Serra Lopes	Pedro Pimenta	Pt	53.79
11.	Marjukka Pesonen	Tuula Keso	Fin	53.41
12.	Robert Snapper	Ricardo Fernandes	Pt	53.22
13.	Joao Machado	Silvio Costa	Pt	52.84
14.	Per Olsen	Arne Olsen	Nor	51.14
15	Nils Nordman	Hakan Lager	Swe	50.95
	van Dalen	Werkhoven	NL	50.95

This was a simultaneous so there was also an overall international result which proved to be quite different. Best local pair was Hoogland-Beyer, 15th overall with 63.37. It really makes a difference with which scores you compare. By the way, if your name got misspelled, the TD and the Bulletin is as good as you fill in your entry form.

Entry fee:

Open Pairs	€ 150 a pair
Open Teams	€ 200 a team

Entry fee (pairs and/or teams) includes the complete social program, two excursions and the closing diner.

To overcall or to undercall?

Jaap van der Neut

Recently I was playing the Dutch pairs championship. I pick up:

♠ KJ732 ♥ A5 ♦ 1095 ♣ J98

Partner pas, 1♦ to the right, red against green. Do you or don't you. If partner has to lead a spade you should but if not it seems better to pas. Winning the bidding is probably not a good idea with this hand at this vulnerability even if they forget to double. I passed. Wrong. It was safe to bid and partner had to lead a spade against 3NT to stop the second overtrick.

Some boards later partner showed me how to play pairs.

♠ Q7654 ♥ - ♦ J98 ♣ 109652

Right hand opponent opened 1♣. The crazy guy overcalled 1♠ on this rubbish! Green against red ok, but partner has not yet passed. When I try to pull this kind of stunt partner always turns up with some strongish hand including a good heart holding and you get a zero one way or another. But look at the full board.

The bidding exploded. West had a normal negative double. I had an enormous hand but no good reason not to bid an 'innocent' 4♠, at this vulnerability you often get doubled. That is exactly what they should have done because 4♠ is one down for a better than average score for EW. But east decided to bid on. I was happy to double 5♦ and lead ♥ A and then the singleton club. 800 and a clean top.

♠ KJ93	
♥ A98752	
♦ A3	
♣ 4	
♠ A108	♠ 2
♥ QJ104	♥ K63
♦ Q764	♦ K1052
♣ J8	♣ AKQ73
♠ Q7654	
♥ -	
♦ J98	
♣ 109652	

Now what is the idea of all this. Should you always bid at pairs. You should bid a lot but there are some limits. I think I should have overcalled on the first hand. It is close but the chance of losing/winning a trick at the lead probably offsets the risks. But overcalling on the second hand is lunatic in my view. I would like to hear some stories from you about crazy overcalls that backfired. We have to show that to undercall is not always winning bridge. It shouldn't anyway.

The welcome cocktail.



"Enjoy your bridge, enjoy your stay"

PROGRAM FOR THE LAST THREE DAYS

Friday 15 th	10 AM	Sightseeing tour
	1 PM	Lunch
	9 PM	Open teams - 1 st session
Saturday 16 th	4 PM	Open teams - 2 nd session
	9.30 PM	Open teams - 3 rd session
Sunday 17 th	3 PM	Open teams - 4 th session
	8 PM	Closing Dinner
	10 PM	Prize giving