



Łódź, Wednesday 3 September 2008 Bulletin 2



# And they're off!

The Fourth World University Championships have started in earnest today.

During a fine opening ceremony, complete with Olympic-style parade of the athletes, Wu Qiang was chosen from among the players from defending champions China to perform the Oath of the Athletes in name of all the participants. Slawek Łatała then did the same in name of the Directors.

The first two rounds of matches are being played as these words are being written.



**Wu Qiang performs the Oath of the Athletes in name of all the other participants**

## Program

### Thursday :

09:30	Matches 3-4
13:30	Lunch
14:15	Matches 5-8
20:30	Dinner

## **Mister University Bridge Paul Magerman**

These will be the first University Championships without Paul Magerman, who sadly passed away last year.



Paul was the man responsible for the very idea of Bridge as a sport for students, when he organised, in 1993, the first ever European University Championships, at Antwerpen.

Paul was also the man who made certain that the event would continue. At first, he approached the cities that were European Capital of Culture in the given year, and that way cities like Lisboa and Weimar were chosen to host the championships.

Paul was president of the European Union Bridge League until 1998. At that time the organisation was incorporated into the EBL, and Paul joined the board of the EBL as representative for University Bridge.

Paul was also instrumental in getting University Bridge onto the World stage. When too many cities were European Capital of Culture in 2000, Paul turned to Maastricht, home of the 2000 Olympiad, and arranged for a University championship to be held at the same venue and time.

Later, Paul joined the board of the WBF and became its University Bridge spokesman. Paul scored yet another victory by being allowed by FISU to organise World Championships in Brugge in 2002.

Paul returned to that venue in 2007, but it would be his last effort. Already too weak to do anything more than provide inspiration, Paul graced the championships with his presence at the academical session, but he died a few weeks later.

Paul actually returned to his first contacts with the game of bridge, which he himself had learnt at University in Gent. He was a co-founder of the University Bridge Club in that city, and celebrated with them their 50th anniversary a couple of years ago.

Paul was a very accomplished player, representing Belgium internationally in the sixties and playing in the top division until the eighties. More recently, he started playing for the University club in Antwerpen, and he helped that team to reach the second division in Belgium at one point.

He had also served as president of the Belgian Bridge Federation and of the Flemish Bridge League, which he helped found.

But he will be best remembered, and most sadly missed, for his work for International University Bridge.

His sons Geert and Bart have tough shoes to fill, but they give it everything, in memory of Mister University Bridge, Paul Magerman.

## History of the European and World University Championships

The idea to organise Championships for University Students originated at the University of Antwerpen, when Paul Magerman, then president of the European Community Bridge League, put together the first European Community Bridge Championship in 1993.

Originally organised by the ECBL, then renamed EUBL, the EBL took over the championships in 1998.

In 2000 it was decided to make the event global, and since then European and World Championships have alternated.

The first events were organised with help from, but without official recognition of FISU, but in 2002 that recognition was given, and we witnessed the first World University Team Championships in Brugge.

In 2007 we received the support of EUSA, the European Universities Sports Association. That also meant that the event was for University teams, no longer national ones.

The next championships will be Europeans again, in Croatia, while the next world championships will probably be held in Chinese Taipei.

### The venues:

1993 (ECBL) **Antwerpen** (\*)  
1994 (ECBL) **Lisboa** (\*)  
1995 not held  
1996 (EUBL) **Århus**  
1997 (EUBL) **Palermo**  
1998 (EBL) **Skövde**  
1999 (EBL) **Weimar** (\*)  
2000 (WBF) **Maastricht**  
2001 (EBL) **Rotterdam** (\*)  
2002 (WBF-FISU) **Brugge** (\*)  
2003 (EBL) **Wrocław**  
2004 (WBF-FISU) **Istanbul**  
2005 (EBL) **Rotterdam**  
2006 (WBF-FISU) **Tianjin**  
2007 (EBL-EUSA) **Brugge**  
2008 (WBF-FISU) **Łódz**

(\*) European Capital of Culture in that year.

### The winners:

1993- 11 nations - **Germany**.  
1994- 9 nations - **Denmark**  
1996- 8 nations - **The Netherlands**  
1997- 8 nations - **The Netherlands**  
1998- 7 nations - **Denmark**  
1999- 11 nations - **The Netherlands**  
2000- 22 (8 outside Europe) - **Austria**  
2001- 14 nations - **The Netherlands**  
2002- 13(2 outside Europe) - **Denmark**  
2003- 20 teams from 7 countries - **Italy**  
2004- 15 (3 outside Europe) - **Poland**  
2005- 29 teams / 15 countries - **Lodz**  
2006- 27t / 22c (9 out Eu) - **China**  
2007- 32 teams / 12 countries - **Paris**

## Medal table after 14 championships:

(European teams only, 1 per country)

	g-s-b (other placings)
Netherl.	4-0-3 (4,4,5,6,6,7,8)
Poland	3-2-0 (4,5,5,8)
Denmark	3-1-2 (5,6,7,7,7,8,9)
Italy	1-4-0 (4,5,5,6,8,7,8,10,11)
Germany	1-2-2 (4,4,5,7,9,9,10)
France	1-1-1 (4,5,6,6,6,8,9,10)
Austria	1-0-0 (11)
Norway	0-1-3 (7,8,9)
England	0-1-1 (4,5,5,6,7,8,9,2x10,2x11)
Belgium	0-1-1 (2x6,3x7,2x8,9,3x10,11)
Sweden	0-1-0 (4,5,6,7)
Turkey	0-0-1 (11,12,13,14)
Israel	0-0-1 (8)
Czech R.	(4,5,5,7,9,12)
Portugal	(4,5,8,8)
Estonia	(4,6)
Romania	(4,11)
Latvia	(6,9,14)
Greece	(6)
Spain	(10,11,12,12)
Serbia	(10,12,13,15)
Hungary	(12)
Ireland	(13,13,14)

## Results and Rankings

Seen that these bulletins are being produced while a match is in progress, it would be wrong to make it the prime place for results to appear. Results will be posted throughout the venue and on the Internet, and we shall publish nothing more than the occasional ranking.

## Paul Magerman Award

In order to honour the memory of Paul Magerman, an award has been instituted for the best played hand at these championships.

There will be one category only, but the award can go to a particularly fine auction, declarer play or defence, and can of course be won by a partnership..

You, the players, are very important for this award, because we need you to inform us of any worthy plays. You can nominate your opponents, team-mates, your partner or even yourself, if you are vain enough to do so (or if you have so few friends that you cannot find someone to nominate you). Of course coaches, captains, spectators and even the staff can also nominate things they have seen. The nominator of the winning play will get a memento.

In order to nominate someone, write down the round and hand number, the match and table it came from, and the bidding and play, together with your comments and why the play was so good, on a special form which will be present at the Directors' table.

The final selection will be made by an international panel, under the chairmanship of Kees Tammens, longtime visitor to University Championships and personal friend of Paul Magerman.

Geert Magerman will then present the award to the winner(s) at the closing ceremony.

## Poland and International University Bridge Championships

by Christer Andersson

The last time Poland hosted an international University Bridge Championship was in 2003. At that time it was the 8th European University Bridge Championship and it was held in Wrocław, in the south-western part of Poland. It was not a surprise that Poland hosted the Championship, as it has one of the strongest organisations for University Bridge in Europe. If you like to know more about it talk to the Polish coach, Stanislaw Golebiewski, but don't invite him to any physical games. He was damaged for a considerable time after having participated in Wrocław.

During the first seven Championships only national teams were eligible, but from 2003 either national teams or teams from any European University could compete in the European University Bridge Championship. This new rule increased the number of teams from around ten to between twenty and thirty. Like here in Łódź, the Championship was over four days, with a full round robin, each team played all other teams in matches of ten boards. The national Italian team won the titles and received the beautiful Cup donated by Prince Albert of Monaco.

In the penultimate round, the winners Italy played the University of Łódź, Poland. This was an interesting board that allowed the Sicilian Andrea Boldrini to



show his technical skill:

Dealer East. None Vuln.

♠ K 4	
♥ Q J 6	
♦ 9 6 5	
♣ A Q J 6 2	
♠ 5	♠ J 10 8 7
♥ K 10 7 3 2	♥ 8 4
♦ A K Q 8 2	♦ 10 7 4
♣ K 10	♣ 8 7 4 3
	♠ A Q 9 6 3 2
	♥ A 9 5
	♦ J 3
	♣ 9 5

West	North	East	South
Ruta	Sbarigia	Sponden-Boldrini	kiewicz
		Pass	1♠
2♥	3♣	Pass	3♠
4♦	Pass	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

A contested auction resulted in Andrea Boldrini as South becoming declarer in 4♠. As West had shown a 2-suiter in the bidding, Boldrini had a good count of the hand. West started with his three top diamonds and Boldrini ruffed. He entered the table with the trump king and was prepared to finesse in trumps. But East put up the jack on the trump continuation. Boldrini won the ace and West discarded a diamond. Recognising he had to get rid of his heart losers and reduce his trump length, Boldrini cashed the ♥A, finessed over West in clubs and put the ♣A on the table. When this card, as expected brought down the king, he could continue with the high ♣J and discard a heart loser.

These cards remained:

♠ -	♠ -
♥ Q J	♥ 10 8
♦ -	♥ 8
♣ 6 2	♦ -
♠ -	♣ 8
♥ K 10 7	♠ A 9 6
♦ 8	♥ 9
♣ -	♦ -
	♣ -

He now reduced his trump length by ruffing a club and gave up a heart trick to West. When West continued with his high diamond East was caught in a Trump Coup.

The bidding during University Championships is not as outrageous as is sometimes the case in junior bridge. This excellent grand slam from Wroclaw 2003 was bid at five of 20 tables. This was the instructive bidding in the match between Warwick University and the Economic University of Prague:



**Sarah (West) and Ben (East)**

Dealer North All Vuln.

♠ Q 9 7 3	
♥ J 5	
♦ 10 9	
♣ A 8 5 3 2	
♠ 8 5	♠ A 10 2
♥ A Q 10 9 8 4 2	♥ K
♦ K 8 3 2	♦ A Q J 7 6 5
♣ -	♣ K 9 4
	♠ K J 6 4
	♥ 7 6 3
	♦ 4
	♣ Q J 10 7 6

West	North	East	South
Whitehead	Braza	Cowling	Tegze
	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♥	Pass
7♦	All Pass		

After East had shown a stronger type of hand with good playing strength, West made a slam try with 4♦. Cue bids in spades and clubs showed first round controls, whereas the subsequent cue bid in hearts showed the king of hearts (only high card controls in partner's suit). West now had an easy task to bid the grand slam that was easy to play. Excellent!

In the Bulletin the Dutch non-playing captain, Jelmer Hasper, reported this play by Hans Broeksteeg in Netherlands I when they played Wroclaw University:

Dealer North N/S Vuln.

♠ 10 9	
♥ J 8 5	
♦ 7 5	
♣ K 10 9 8 4	
♠ A Q 7 2	♠ J 6 5 4
♥ 4 3	♥ A Q 9 7
♦ K Q J 2	♦ A 9 4 3
♣ Q 7 2	♣ A
♠ K 8 3	
♥ K 10 6 2	
♦ 10 8 6	
♣ J 6 5	

After a slightly optimistic bidding sequence, Hans played 6♠ from the West hand. He received a fortunate club lead and played a spade to the queen. Next he ruffed a club, played a spade to the ace and ruffed the ♣Q. He proceeded to cash his diamonds and of course South refused to ruff. However, this did not help the defence as Hans deduced that it was a reason why South did not ruff the diamond trick - he did not want to lead hearts. He therefore exited with a spade and poor South had nothing else to play than hearts.

### Live on BBO

There will be one match per round that is going to be transmitted on BBO.

On Thursday the chosen matches are:

Rd 3 (09:30)	France B - Germany A
Rd 4 (11:20)	Belgium - Poland B
Rd 5 (14:15)	Indonesia - USA A
Rd 6 (16:05)	Netherl's A - Chinese T.
Rd 7 (17:55)	USA B - Austria

## 1000 years?

John Probst is here as the coach of the team of Durham University. As the winners of the British Universities Championship (with participation of several Scottish teams), they prefer to be cited as representing Great Britain rather than England.



**John (MadDog) Probst**

Rather than trying to be British, John showed off his typically English hatred of anything continental while insulting almost everyone at the bar yesterday.

"I forgive you", John said to a French student, "and I'll buy you a beer". "Forgive me for what?" asked the Frenchman. "For 1000 years of history". "Don't you think that is worth at least two beers?" came the reply. He got them as well.