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WELCOME TO MADEIRA 2011

14th International Bridge Festival

Madeira

Funchal, November 7-13, 2011

This year's Madeira International Bridge Open is about to begin. And here we are again in the CS Madeira Atlantic Resort & Sea Spa, ready for the biggest tournament ever. We will have our usual good weather, the sight-seeing tours and a typical dinner.



The winning pair at last year's prize-giving dinner

On the bridge part, we will have fully duplicated boards and Bridgemates both in the Pairs' and in the Teams' Tournaments. We will also go live on BBO to broadcast table 1 of the Teams' Tournament.

And... in the end... the prize-giving dinner.

But, before all that, to get you in the mood, we're having the welcome cocktail at 6 pm in the S. Francisco Wine Lodges. See page 3 on how to get there.

Pedro Nunes

ENTRY FEES		
MONDAY WARM-UP	PAIRS	TEAMS
10 € / Player	90 € / Player	300 € / Team (up to 6 players)

THE ENTRY FORMS

Welcome to Madeira and our 14th International Bridge Open!

Are you staying in the CS Madeira? If so, you have received an envelope with some forms and this bulletin.

Be sure to fill them in. You will have to bring them to the Welcome desk on Tuesday between 14.30 and 16.00 in order to receive your vouchers.

You will be then given your entry fee vouchers, both for the pairs and teams events, as well as any other vouchers you have requested

Please note that if you are not staying in the hotel with the Special Bridge Package but still wish to participate in the social program you should let us know. Contact the Welcome desk Wednesday (from 15.00 to 16.00), where you will be given your Prize Giving Dinner vouchers and where you may buy any other voucher you need (as for Wednesday's typical dinner or for a non-player accompanying you to Sunday's dinner).

The Organization would like to warn you that you should not use your vouchers as markers on your latest bridge book while you're in the pool, or as wedges under the wobbling bed table, for if you lose them you will be required to buy new ones!

Another important note. This year we will be asking you to give us an estimate of your strength as a player on your entry form. This will be used to calculate the overall strength of the tournament, mainly for Portuguese ranking points distribution. So you will find a line with **V Index**, where you should fill according to the following table:

International Level - 1I
1st Series High 1A - about Top 5% of your NCBO but not international
1st Series High 1B -between Top 5% and Top 15% but not international
2nd Series 2X - between Top 15% and Top 55% - Competent players but not Top 15%
3rd Series 3X - Lowest 55% - Mostly club players
No Classification SC - Not affiliated with your NCBO - Only social bridge players

Your Vouchers are like money - Don't lose them!

The Welcome Cocktail

Wondering on how to get to the São Francisco Wine Lodges?
Have a look at the map below:



It's a 20 minute walk or a 5 minute drive from the hotel.

See you there!

Have you ever heard "Been there, done that, got the t-shirt"?

This year we have official Madeira International Bridge Open t-shirts.

You may also be able to say it!

If you have a well-played hand or a fun story at the table, don't be shy!

Share it with us...

Contact any of the bulletin staff or TD

O Lagar

Our typical dinner, on Wednesday, will be held in one of the famous "espetada" restaurants - O Lagar.

Last year the "espetada" was delicious! It will be even better this year!



Last year's typical dinner

A Real Palooka

By Rodrigo Martins Soares

As you may know, palooka is a term usually used by bridge players to designate less ... let's say... "gifted" players, that is, just about anyone else, especially the current partner. The www.bridgehands.com encyclopaedia defines it as:

Palooka - A derogatory colloquial term for a Bridge player with poor ability.

Take this hand I played recently in a pair's event:

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

South was playing 3NT after opening the bidding with a precision style 13-15 1NT. The lead was a small club, won by declarer's Jack. Next came a small spade to the Queen that held. Now what?

Gonçalo Esmeraldo was South at my table. He continued with another spade.

Now it's West's turn. A palooka would now mindlessly play another club. But a real palooka would do one better - he would think about cashing his other spade and then still play a club without doing it. Yes, I was West, and yes I did think about cashing my ♠A but didn't - I led another club. Gonçalo now just cashed his minor suit winners squeezing me in the majors for a cold top.

Why did I play another club? Well, I thought that partner might have the ♦Q, and if so we would have time to set up a club trick for the defence. Of course that isn't true. If East did have the ♦Q, declarer could win the club return and play on diamonds. Now if partner plays anything but a spade upon winning with the Queen of Diamonds, again declarer plays his minor suit winners and I'm squeezed in the majors. So, at best, I'm just where I started - needing to cash the spade.

Could declarer have done better? Looking at all four hands, yes. After winning the ♠Q, he might have played immediately on the minors and the squeeze would be in

effect even without the count. The problem is that it might be a lot more difficult to read. Playing against palookas you never can tell what they are holding!

Later on the same session I was playing 3NT after a weak 2♠ opening bid on my right. The lead was the ♠J and I, sitting South, saw:

♠ 6 3
♥ K 10 5 3 2
♦ 8 7 4
♣ A Q 7



♠ A Q
♥ A 6
♦ A K Q 3 2
♣ 10 4 3 2

After winning the first trick with the ♠Q, I cashed the two top diamonds. When everyone followed, I played a club to the Queen that held. Next came a small club from dummy! West took the trick and returned a spade. I won in hand, cashed the ♣A, East discarding a spade and played dummy's last diamond to my Queen, where West in turn discarded a spade. After double checking my math I turned to West as I played another diamond saying "It looks like you started with 4 Clubs and 4 Hearts, so you will be squeezed between those suits". He promptly acknowledged and I was quite pleased scoring 12 tricks. That turned out to be a cold average. Everybody else made exactly 12 tricks in 3NT! Look at the whole board:

♠ 6 3
♥ K 10 5 3 2
♦ 8 7 4
♣ A Q 7

♠ J 4 2
♥ Q J 8 4
♦ 9 5
♣ K J 9 6



♠ K 10 9 8 7 5
♥ 9 7
♦ J 10 6
♣ 8 5

♠ A Q
♥ A 6
♦ A K Q 3 2
♣ 10 4 3 2

As you may see, after the spade lead all you need to do is cash your five diamond tricks. West may first discard his two small spades, but on the fifth diamond has to choose between the fourth club and the fourth heart. Whichever one he chooses, declarer will give up a trick in that suit and easily make 12 tricks. Another squeeze without the count!

And again the mark of the real palooka - took an extra 5 minutes to make exactly as many tricks as anyone else.



Last year's welcome cocktail

Did you know that O'Briens Pub is part of the CS Madeira?
It opens at 6 pm and closes at 1 am (3 am on Friday and Saturday).
You can have a drink or a light meal there.

Program 2011

Monday (07/11/2011)	18.00	Welcome Cocktail at S. Francisco Wine Lodge
	21.30	Warm-up Pairs
Tuesday (08/11/2011)	09.00	Free morning(*)
	15.00	Welcome Desk Opens
	15.30	Pairs Tournament Entries - Confirmations
	16.15	Closing time for Pairs Tournament Entries
	16.30	Open Pairs Tournament - 1st Session
Wednesday (09/11/2011)	09.00	Free morning(*)
	16.30	Open Pairs Tournament - 2nd Session
	21.00	Dinner (**) - Bus leaves at 20.45
Thursday (10/11/2011)	09.00	Free morning(*)
	16.30	Open Pairs Tournament - 3rd Session
	20.30	Final Results
Friday (11/11/2011)	09.30	Half-day Tour(**)
	21.15	Closing time for Teams Tournament Entries
	21.00	Open Teams Tournament - 1st Session
Saturday (12/11/2011)	09.00	Free morning
	15.30	Open Teams Tournament - 2nd Session
	21.30	Open Teams Tournament - 3rd Session
Sunday (13/11/2011)	15.00	Open Teams Tournament - 4th Session
	20.00	Final Results
	21.00	Closing Dinner and Prize Giving

(*) Contact Top Atlântico for more tours

(**) Dinner and Tour included in the Hotel package

The Half-day Tour can be one of the following:

- a) Boat Trip along the West coast of Madeira (limited places)
- b) Tour to Pico dos Barcelos, Eira do Serrado, Curral das Freiras and Camara de Lobos (taking about 3 hours).

The Top Atlântico Desk will be at the Hotel lobby.

It will be open Tuesday and Wednesday from 3.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.

If you have booked through this agency you should do your payments there.

THE STAFF



Organizer



Organizer



Organizer / B. Editor



Organizer / B. Editor



Organizer / T. D.



**Chief Tournament
Director**



Tournament Director



Tournament Director