

BRIDGE NEWS

August to October 2011 VOL. 18 No. 2



Telephone number for Bridge Club 'The Looier': + 31 20 6279380

www.looier.com

**Nature is really close to Albergo
Ristorante San Carlo - sometimes a little
too close.**



*Copulating snakes at the car park of our hotel in San Carlo Terme. You can watch the video with the following link:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fnb2MOOceKs>*

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Tel. Bridge Club:

Tel. Looier Holiday Apartments:

Circulation: 3,600 Editorial &

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The series is taking shape

The plans for the bridge lessons television soap are beginning to take shape. The creative team working on the realization of Hans Becker's dream keeps coming up with new ideas. Everyone is convinced it's a good idea now and the lessons will be filmed in November.



A visit to Campo Cecina with its spectacular view at the marble is on the agenda for the winners of the Bridge Holiday

It's incredible how much work is involved in a project such as this. Every step needs to be thought of, scheduled and arranged. It has taken many brainstorming sessions and meetings to get to this stage, but considering what we started with and how things are now taking shape, it hasn't been a bad investment.

Casting will take place in September / October. We are looking for young people of around 20 years old who like playing cards, live in or close to Amsterdam and want to learn to play bridge. They should also enjoy being in the spotlight, because we aim to have the series broadcast as a television soap. Do you know of anyone who may be interested in this challenge? Let them send us an e-mail at info@looier.com and we will contact them at a later date.

LART 2011

The Bridge Club will celebrate its 24th anniversary in the second weekend of September, and as usual, the celebrations will last 3 days. How do bridge players celebrate? Holding a hand of cards, of course! On Friday the 9th of September we will kick off at 7.30 p.m. with a Pairs Competition. You can register in advance. Should you wish to take potluck, you need to arrive at 7.15 at the latest.



Yolanda Schaefer wins the Chestnut Holiday to Tuscany.

Saturday evening is Patton night. In a Patton competition, both the pairs' and the foursomes' scores are included in the final score. In this scoring method all aspects of the game are represented in the score. The Looier Friday evening club uses this scoring method, which is why we included this competition in our festive programme. The Patton scoring method is also used for the Amsterdam pub-crawl. This way the risk of card distributions being passed on is negligible. It is rumoured that this sometimes happens at other major pub-crawls.

On Sunday afternoon you're on your own. You will be matched up with seven different partners. The best bit of this competition is that people are matched according to strength. This means that top-ranked players battle it out against

each other. As the results in the weakest lines can vary considerably, there are often high scores to be achieved by beginners, who often play in this line. In addition, a factor 3 is applied to the weight of the scores, so that everyone, even if they only participate on the last afternoon of the competition, has a chance to win one of the many, big prizes.

There is a separate line for the Looier system players, so the students need not worry, they can participate like everyone else. We hope to achieve a milestone this year: enough participants using the Looier system to form two or even three Looier lines.

Chestnut Bridge Holiday moved forward, while the Clinic is postponed to 2012

The Chestnut Holiday has been rescheduled for September. We have come to the conclusion that the hotel is not attracting enough visitors in the off-season, so we urgently need to turn it into a seasonal hotel. Because the



The cyclamen may already be flowering so you may discover some if you join us on our slightly treacherous walk in the woods from Antona to Canavara.

bridge lessons and the filming for the soap start in October, it would be

convenient for Hans to be in Amsterdam at that time. We have therefore decided to move the autumn bridge holiday forward to September.

Without Hans there, the hotel is not run as smoothly as it should be. Everyone wants to be boss, while it's much more important to cooperate with each other. Hans has learned from this experience. He is not the type to throw in the towel, so will look for solutions and think of new initiatives. He has now decided to only open the hotel in June, July and August.

This new policy also has consequences for the bridge clinic and the Spring Holiday. The bridge clinic will have to be postponed to mid June, and the activities around Christmas and the New Year, as well as the Spring Holiday will be cancelled. Members of the Monday evening club will now be invited at the beginning of June, which is when we will organise the Fireflies Trip. It will be an entirely different type of Holiday, because there is a much smaller chance of bad weather.

Action offers the Chestnut Holiday for 1 Euro.

The internet action of the Looier, that ends the 5th of September offers a room in our holiday hotel in Italy, during the Chestnut Holiday, with a starting price of € 1,00. This remarkable offer is done with the success of Ryan Air in mind. This Aircraft Company got enormous free publicity by offering their tickets for minimums. The Looier auction tries to put their Internet auction house in the picture the same way. There are several offers with remarkable low starting prices. A week in Amsterdam for instance. Have a look at their site for yourself. The internet address is:

http://www.bridge-amsterdam.nl/veiling/startpagina-eng.php?user_id=321

Looier Cash.

Regular players at the Monday Evening Club are invited to participate in the Looier Cash Tournament on Monday the 29th of August. There are several cash prizes to be won at this tournament, ranging from € 1,500 (first prize) to € 100 (consolation prize). It will be an individual tournament and because the players are matched up according to strength, all participants have a chance of winning. We hope that we will also be able to welcome our centenarian that evening. Lenie



Wessel Omens shows his prize of € 1,000 - won at the 2010 Looier Cash Tournament.

Oostendorp has taken the initiative and arranged for various members to take it in turn to accompany Carel van Sitteren to the club building. This meant that he was able to join us most Mondays and has qualified for this invitation tournament.

The club's officers are proud of the volunteers who pick Carel up every week and

accompany him to the bridge club. Walking is not as popular as it should be. Carel, however, is living proof that exercise is important. It helps you function well at a high age if you use your skills. Keep yourself occupied and use every part of your body you can still use. It is no coincidence that Hans Becker, Chairman of the board of Humanitas and author of the book “Levenskunst op Leeftijd” (“The art of living at a respectable age”) has: “Use it or lose it.” as his motto. The namesake of one of our committee members knows what he’s talking about. He manages 5 large old people’s homes where his philosophy is very successfully put into practice. Carel is an example of someone who does this on his own initiative. Go Carel and show everyone on the 29th of August that you can still be a winner at this mind game when you have reached the respectable age of 100.

End of the third Women’s Bridge season.

On Sunday the 19th of June we closed the third Women's Bridge season in the Looier. As usual, we ended the season in style. We started off with some choux pastry and sparkly wine, to get us in the festive mood.

During this last contest of the season, the participants also competed for the Ladder Trophy. This trophy is awarded to the person with the highest average over seven contests. For the second consecutive time, the trophy was won by Margot Schoenmacker and Dorine Rijkers, scoring 56.66%, followed closely behind by Marjan Nieuwenhuis.



Winners of the Ladder Trophy Margot Schoenmacker and Dorine Rijkers

Each season consists of ten contests, played from September to June, always on the third Sunday afternoon of the month. This year, 140 ladies participated, the same number as last year. On average, there were 20 pairs each time, compared to 22 pairs last year. The core of regular players (i.e. 7–10 times per season) has been reduced. There were 15 ladies this season (compared to 22 last year). In addition there are 20 players who play 4–6 times per season (31 last year). The number of occasional players (once to 3 times), however, has increased significantly. Last year, there were 87 – this year there are 101. An unusually high number.

Due to certain circumstances, Arjen was unable to act as tournament leader the last three months. Dorine Rijkers and Andrea Reijntjes replaced him as best they could, with Andrea also acting as referee. Margot Schoenmacker stepped in to support Barry behind the bar. Next season Arjen will resume his tournament leadership. The three replacement ladies can then apply themselves fully to bridge again, knowing that the organisation is in good hands.

The good atmosphere on these Sunday afternoons can be largely attributed to Barry's cheerful disposition and the lovely refreshments he serves – we wouldn't want to miss them for the world!

The new season will start on Sunday the 18th of September. Apart from some minor adjustments, we will continue in the same format. We noticed that the ladies like working with small notes listing the names of the opponents. We will therefore continue using this system. We will also send the personal results to the participants by e-mail, immediately after the contest. With regard to the prizes that are awarded to the best three pairs: those prizes will remain in place, but will be standardized a bit more. Any suggestions in this respect are welcome. We hope that the new season will attract a lot of keen bridge players who want to have a great time playing bridge on the third Sunday of the month!

Looier Bidding Advantage 27

As I have written here before, I have enough old bridge calendars with unsolved bidding problems to last me to 2020. In Italy, I don't have access to the comparative records and card distributions that make researching the Looier bidding advantage at the Looier Bridge Club so much easier. I sometimes play bridge at Forte dei Marmi, but here, as soon as the results have been announced, the cards are shuffled and everyone leaves to have their evening meal. That is why I use bridge calendars for inspiration now. The problems presented on the NBB block-calendar are too theoretical for my liking and far too complicated. Also, it includes many problems where the entire card distribution is presented. If you are unable to find the solution even then, this doesn't do much for your self-esteem. Although this kind of game can give you a deeper insight, it doesn't help you much in every day practice. In reality, you never see the entire hand at the beginning, and unfortunately, I don't have any clairvoyant powers.

I feel very far removed from that type of problem and it usually takes days for me to be able to fully reproduce the solution correctly. This was also true for the 5 star problem listed for Saturday the 22 of June 1996. It was one of those 'double dummy' cards again. There was no mention of how the final contract was made, who was vulnerable, nor who played this remarkable game.

The bidding in this game, however, is extremely interesting for Looier players, when South opens the hand with 2♣.

East	South	West	North
pass	2♣ ¹	pass	2♦ ²
pass	2SA ³	pass	?

¹. The opening has 4 possible meanings:

- a. Weak ♦.
- b. Semi forcing in any suit.
- c. Manche forcing in ♣.
- d. A leaky NT

². An almost obligatory relay. A different bid is only possible with 18+ points.

³. South is offering a Leaky NT.

In this case, we are dealing with the frequently maligned 'Leaky NT'. This is the most difficult convention of the Looier System there is. Whoever masters this convention is doing very well indeed.

What do you bid after your partner has indicated that he is holding a leaky NT?

♠ A, K, Q, J, 3
 ♥ Q, 4, 3, 2
 ♦ 10, 2
 ♣ 9, 7

You bid 3♣, of course, because you are almost certain that the leaky suit must be ♠. You are not in a hurry and should any of the other suits be leaky, because it turns out there was a 4- of 5-card in ♠, then at least the trump suit has been decided.

play using ♥Q or ♦10. At the second♦ West gets in a squeeze. West can't afford to lose any more ♣ and has to throw ♠ or ♠. South gets a free card which puts West once again in a squeeze.

Should East underplay ♦B, then West would immediately be in a squeeze after ♦10. If West throws a ♣ then South would underplay a ♣ trick to West.

Hans Becker

Blind Date Drive

The Blind Date Drive has been scheduled in for Wednesday the 5th of October. Why don't you join in and meet your life's partner? We are relying once again on our faithful sponsors: Restaurant 'Moeders' situated on the corner of the Rozengracht and the Groenmarktkade; The pub Chaos on the corner of the Looiersgracht and the Lijnbaansgracht and Restaurant Wenders, also on a corner, i.e. the corner of the Weteringsstraat and the Prinsengracht. They all open at 5 p.m. This gives you plenty of time to make it to your bridge evening at the Looier. The sponsors have been offering a dinner voucher to us for many years, and you and your new partner can win one of them if you join us in our Blind Date Drive. A successful night of bridge may then be concluded by dinner in one of these restaurants. Join in, you never know who you are matched up with and what this may lead to.

This annual event usually coincides with our General Meeting. The meeting will now take place before the drive. We kindly request members who take an interest in the everyday running of the club, to arrive at our bridge room at Lijnbaansgracht 185 Amsterdam, by 5.30 p.m.

RATE HOLIDAY APARTMENT AMSTERDAM 2011

Bridge Suite Lijnbaansgracht 186 C, A'dam 2/4 persons.

01/01/2011 - 31/12/2011 € 490 per week.

Additional single bed + € 71.50 including linen.

BASIC RATES ITALY 2011

Single room incl. breakfast	€ 40/60 per
night	
Double room incl. breakfast	€ 70/90 per
night	
Supplement for half board per person	€ 25 per night
Supplement for full board per person	€ 40 per night
Discount for singles using a double room	€ 15 per night

Some more expensive rooms have a balcony and a sea view. The price depends partly on those extras.

The contributions for the new season.

The new bridge season starts in September. The contribution for the 2011/12 season will be increased in line with inflation. If you pay before the 1st of September, you can pay the old price. If you do not want to renew your membership, please let us know before the 1st September. That gives us time to inform the NBB, so we do not have to pay membership fees for you. If you pay after the 1st of September, the new price will apply.

The relevant rates are below:

	Old price	New Price
Monday Evening Sept. to Aug.	€ 37,35	€ 38,10
Tuesday Afternoon Sept. to Aug.	€ 94,25	€ 96,15
Wednesday Evening Sept. to Aug.	€ 94,25	€ 96,15
Thursday Afternoon Sept. to Aug.	€ 94,25	€ 96,15
Thursday Evening Sept. to Aug.	€ 94,25	€ 96,15
Friday Evening Sept. to May	€ 51,00	€ 52,00
An additional club membership:	€ 62,30	€ 63,55
The full competition package:		€ 300,00
Participation by members in one of our other clubs:	€ 2,30	
Participation by non-members in a club afternoon or evening:	€ 5,00	
Participation other members in the Sunday afternoon Drive:	€ 4,25	
Participation by non-members in the Sunday afternoon Drive:	€ 8,50	

You can transfer your contribution for the Looier bridge club of your choice to the ING account of Bridge Club de Looier: **7366100**

Will there be another Looier team?

Martin Wolff and Hans Becker would like to participate in the external foursomes' competition this year. They are looking for 4 more team player. Hans is picky though. He feels that, as the creator of the Looier System, he should appear with a team of Looier players. He therefore asks members who are competent in the Looier system and like to play in foursomes' competition to register. Would you like to participate in this competition? Please register before the 15th of August. If you want to form your own team, you can, but please note that the competition's games are played on Friday evening and this is a non-smokers club. Please register with Barry!

Now that our first team, which is composed of Rob Scherpenisse, Kees Bootsma, Clemens Beutick, Hans Posthuma and Derk Heiligers, has managed to stay in the first class, we expect them to represent the Looier once again. The second team, composed of Yolanda Schaefer, Eveline van de Sande Bakhuizen, Alide v Ingen, Peter v Westering and Wim Hangard experienced some problems and had to play with many stand-by players. It would be helpful, therefore, if you form a team, to have 6 players instead of 4. Please register before the 15th of August.

A Bridge walking trip with many excursions

At the end of September we will organise our last Autumn Holiday to Italy for the time being. The theme for this holiday, in addition to bridge, will be walking, because there are many lovely walks in the area. The area is also very suitable for rock climbing. There are special paths for this, and although I personally have never tried this sport, I'm quite interested to know more about it. Many people come here especially to climb the rocks. The routes have been plotted in the Apuane alpes. Another excursion I am particularly looking forward to is our trip to Campo Cecina, where you can enjoy a spectacular view. I have never seen such an impressive panoramic view. The Carrara quarries show up white between the wooded mountains and the blue Mediterranean sea with its curved coastline,

with in the distance the Lago di Massaciucoli as a glistening pool in the scenery. The arrival date is Saturday the 24th of September and the departure date is the 1st of October.

Special Events Programme 2011

Sunday	28 August		
Market	11 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Flee Market	
Bridge	12.45– 5 p.m.	The 'Master Points Drive'	
Monday	29 August		
Market	11 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Antique Market	
Bridge	7.15– midnight	The 'Looier Cash Tournament'	
Tuesday	30 August		
Market	11 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Flee Market	
Bridge	7.15 – 9.30 p.m.	Looier System Exam	
Thursday	1 September		
Bridge	12.45 – 4. 45 p.m.	Start of the Tea Drive Competition (NR)	
Bridge	7.15 – 10.30 p.m.	New competition 'The Smokers' Club' Membership fee € 96.15 until 31.08.12	
Friday	2 September		
Bridge	7.15 – 10.30 p.m.	Start of the Patton comp. No smoking Membership fee € 52 until 31.08.11	
Saturday	3 September		
Auction	11 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Viewing day	
Market	11 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Flee Market	
Bridge	noon – 5 p.m.	Talking bridge with Barry (informal gathering)	
Sunday	4 September		
Auction	11 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Viewing day	
Market	11 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Flee Market	
Bridge	noon – 5 p.m.	Talking or Rubber Bridge (informal gathering)	
Monday	5 September		
Auction	2 – 4 p.m.	General auction	
Bridge	7 – 10.30 p.m.	Start of the Individual Players Competition Membership fee € 38.10 until 31.08.12	
Wednesday	7 September		
Bridge	7.15 – 10.30 p.m.	Start of the comp. Gay Prize Bridge Membership fee € 96.15 until 31.08.12	
Friday	9 September		
Bridge	7.15 – 10.30 p.m.	The L.A.R.T. pair competition	

Saturday	10 September	Bridge 7.15 – 10.30 p.m.	The L.A.R.T. Patton competition
Sunday	11 September	Bridge 12.45 – 4.30 p.m.	L.A.R.T. Individual players presentation of prizes. Please visit www.bridgereis.nl for further information. Participation prices for non-members are EUR 25 per person for the entire tournament and EUR 10 per contest. Members pay half price.
Sunday	18 September	Market 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Bridge 12.00 – 5 p.m.	Antique Market Women's Bridge
Saturday	24 to 30 September	Holiday Apartments	Chestnut Bridge trip to Tuscany
Saturday	24 September	Market 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Bridge noon – 5 p.m.	Antique Market Talking bridge with Barry (informal gathering)
Sunday	25 September	Market 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Bridge 12.45 – 3.00 p.m.	Antique Market Master Points Drive members € 4.25. Other participants € 8.50.
Saturday	1 October	Market 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Auction 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Bridge noon – 5 p.m.	Antique Market Viewing day Talking bridge with Barry (informal gathering)
Sunday	2 October	Market 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Auction 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Bridge noon – 5 p.m.	Antique Market Viewing day Talking or Rubber Bridge (informal gathering)
Monday	3 October	Auction 4.00 Bridge 7 – 10.30	Bidding for the Internet Auction ends. Registration + start Bridge Course
Wednesday	5 October	Market 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Bridge 5.30 – 6.30 p.m. 7.15 – 11.30 p.m.	Antique Market General Meeting "Blind Date Drive"
Monday	10 October	Market 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Bridge 7.15 – 10.30 p.m. 7.15 – 10.30 p.m.	Antique Market Lesson 2 2nd Relay + Looier Stayman Individual Players Club Looier System
Sunday	16 October	Market 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Bridge 12.00 – 5 p.m.	Antique Market Women's Bridge

Monday	17 October	11 a.m. – 5 p.m. 7.15 – 10.30 p.m. 7.15 – 10.30 p.m.	Antique Market Lesson 3 Logjes Individual Players Club Looier System
Monday	24 October	11 a.m. – 5 p.m. 7.15 – 10.30 p.m.	Antique Market Lesson 4 The 2NT opening + Niemeijer
Sunday	30 October	11 a.m. – 5 p.m. 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. noon – 5.15 p.m.	Antique Market Viewing day The Master Points Drive members € 4.25. Other participants € 8.50.
Monday	31 October	11 a.m. – 5 p.m. 7.15 – 10.30 p.m. 7.15 – 10.30 p.m.	Antique Market Lesson 5 The 2 ; 2♥ and 2♠ opening Individual Players Club Looier System
Saturday	5 November	11 a.m. – 5 p.m. 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Antique Market Viewing day Bridge on the Water
Sunday	6 November	11 a.m. – 5 p.m. 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. noon – 5.15 p.m.	Flee Market Viewing day The Master Points Drive
Monday	7 November	11 a.m. – 5 p.m. 4.00 7.15 – 10.30 p.m. 7.15 – 10.30 p.m.	Antique Market Bidding for the Internet Auction ends. Lesson 6 The 2 opening bid Individual Players Club Looier System
Monday	14 November	11 a.m. – 5 p.m. 7.15 – 10.30 7.15 – 10.30 p.m.	Antique Market Lesson 7 Slam Conventions Individual Players Club Looier System
Sunday	20 November	11 a.m. – 5 p.m. 12.00 – 5 p.m.	Antique Market Women's Bridge
Monday	21 November	11 a.m. – 5 p.m. 7.15 – 10.30 p.m. 7.15 – 10.30 p.m.	Antique Market Lesson 8 Discussion of System Card Individual Players Club Looier System
Sunday	27 November	11 a.m. – 5 p.m. 12.45– 5.45 p.m.	Antique Market The 'Master Points Drive' members € 4.25. Other participants € 8.50.

Monday 28 November
 Market 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. **Antique Market**
 Bridge 7.15 - 22.30 **1st Competition night students**

Play once a week – then you will retain your knowledge. If you're a member of the Monday evening club, and you play regularly, then you can participate in the Looier Cash Tournament at the end of August. The prize money is over € 8,000 and this makes this tournament one of the most lucrative bridge tournaments in the Netherlands. The members of this club are also offered a bridge week in our hotel in Tuscany.

Asbergo Ristorante San Carlo

Via Nicola Zonder 3, San Carlo Terme

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www.looiersuites.nl

Saturday 3 December
 Auction 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. **Viewing Day for the Auction**
 Market 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. **Antique Market**
 Bridge 1 – 7 p.m. **Students practice bridge**

Sunday 4 December
 Auction 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. **Viewing Day for the Auction**
 Bridge 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. **Bridge Practice Session with Barry**

Monday 5 December
 Auction 4.00 **Bidding for the Internet Auction ends.**
 Bridge 7.15 - midnight **Individual Saint Nicholas Drive**
Looier System obligatory.

Tuesday 6 December
 Auction 11 a.m. – 6. p.m. Open for drop-off & pick-up.
 Bridge 12.45 – 4.30 p.m. **Start of the Egnog Competition**

Sunday 18 December
 Market 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. **Antique Market**
 Bridge Noon – 18.00 p.m. **Women's Bridge (non-smoking)**

Thursday 22 December
 Market 11 a.m.– 5 p.m. **Antique Market**
 Bridge 12.45 – 6 p.m. **Monopoly Drive. Participation € 15,-**
Members free. Smoking allowed in a
separate room.
 7.15 – 23.30 p.m. **Smokers' Club**

Weekly programme of 'Bridge Club The Looier'

Monday evening: Individual Players Club Registration open until 7.15 p.m.
Free participation. Obligatory use of The Looier Bidding System. 21 boards played until approx. 11 p.m.

Tuesday afternoon: The Egnog Drive; Registration open until 12.45 p.m. The cheerful drive! Barometer with prizes for each round. Approx. 16 pairs.

Wednesday: The Winners Club Gay Prize Bridge. Registration open until 7.15 p.m. A Butler night with a prize (a meal) at the end of the 3-monthly competition. Approx. 14 Pairs, 24 boards played until approx. 11. p.m.

Thursday afternoon: 'The Tea Drive Club'; registration open until 12.45 p.m. One area reserved for smoking. Bridge area non-smoking. Free tea provided.

Thursday evening: The Smokers Club: Registration open until 7.15 p.m. Busy evening. Approx. 24 pairs. The strongest line plays a complete Howell.

Friday evening: 'The Patton Club'. Registration open until 7.15 p.m. Plays from September until March. Relaxed atmosphere - evenings can last until approx. 24 p.m.

Sunday afternoon: Women's Bridge Registration open until 12.45 p.m.

Please note! Only held on the last Sunday of the month. Doors open at noon.

Sunday afternoon: The Master Points Drive - Registration open until 12.45 p.m.

Please note! Only held on the last Sunday of the month. Doors open at noon.