

INTERVIEW WITH



- 1964: Born 10th July in Munich
- 1985: EEC Teams, bronze medal
- 1989: European Ladies Team Champion
- 1991: European Ladies Team silver medal
- 1993: *Venice Cup* silver medal
- 1995: *Venice Cup* Champion, European Ladies Pairs Champion
- 1997: European Ladies Pairs Champion

DANIELA VON

Daniela, congratulations on the wonderful achievement of you & Sabine Auken in retaining your title as **GENERALI European Ladies Pairs** champions. Please tell us something about yourself.

I have two sisters. My father worked in German TV as a cameraman, and when I was five months old, he was sent to Hong Kong. The family was there five years, and I learned English and a little Chinese! We returned to Germany in 1969, and since then I have lived mostly near Wiesbaden.

How did you learn bridge?

My mother played bridge at a club. My father also played though just at home. When I was 15 years old I learned and partnered my mother at the local club.

What about your education?

I went to Mainz University to study chemistry, but did not like it, and switched to Frankfurt to study Computer Information Systems. I was a student until 1993!

When did your international bridge career begin?

In 1985 I partnered Pony Nehmert in the EEC teams in Bordeaux with Sabine Auken & Anna Moller as team-mates, and we won the bronze medal. In the same year Sabine & I won the German Junior Championship, and we played

together the following year in Miami where we came 7th in the Ladies Pairs. We have been bridge partners ever since.

What are your main successes since then?

In 1987 I was on the German team in the Brighton Europeans. We came about sixth, and in the 1988 Olympiad did not qualify for the knockouts. However, the same German team won the Europeans in Turku in 1989, beating the Netherlands. When both went to Perth for the *Venice Cup*, the Netherlands had their revenge, knocking us out in the semi-finals, and we then lost the play-off by 3imps to Canada.

In 1991 we came second in the Killarney Europeans. In Yokohama, in the *Venice Cup*, we lost to Austria in the quarter-finals by 6imps. We won every set except one, where we lost almost a hundredimps! We also lost in the semi-finals of the 1992 Olympiad to Great Britain, and again we lost the play-off, this time to France.

In 1993 in Menton at the Europeans I became friendly with a member of the German Open team, Klaus Reps. The Ladies just qualified in fourth place for the *Venice Cup* and we went to Santiago with Klaus as captain for the first time. We won the silver medal losing to the USA in the final.

ARNIM

1995 was our big year. At the Vilamoura Europeans Sabine & I won the Ladies Pairs and the team took silver. We went to Beijing with Reps as captain and won the *Venice Cup*. We beat France in the semi-final easily. In the final against the USA we were actually down going into the last set, but won this big to become world champions. Klaus at the age of 25 became the youngest person to captain a world champion team. We married the following year.

In the 1996 Olympiad in Rhodes we lost to Canada in the quarter-final. In Montecatini Sabine & I retained the Ladies Pairs title, and the team came fourth, so we qualify for Tunisia.

What is your job?

I got a job with a bridge-player, Georg Nippgen, in Karlsruhe. I do software development in the field of Company Consultants.

If you had a magic wand, what would you change about bridge?

If bridge had the coverage in the media of tennis or golf, I could give up my job and become full-time bridge ... and have some real holidays!

Patrick Jourdain