



Bridge for Peace

Season's Greetings

From José Damiani
President,
World Bridge Federation



The Past

- Dear Friends and Colleagues
- This is the time when we look back over the past year, hopefully with pleasure, to see what has been achieved, before we start to look to the future and to see what 2008 holds for us.

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- In January 2007, our Charity Simultaneous Pairs held in partnership with ECatsBridge, raised funds enabling the building of the WBF School in Pakistan, and later in the year I was able to go to Pakistan for the inauguration with Zia Mahmood. The generosity of bridge players is enormous and I must thank all those who participated and helped with this project.

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- The World Bridge Teams Championships took place in the vibrant city of Shanghai where our friends and colleagues in the Chinese Contract Bridge Association staged a very exciting and successful event.
 - Many of the documents published at the Championships are available on the websites, and links can be found on the last page of this presentation.

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- The 2007 Laws of Duplicate Bridge were adopted by the WBF Executive Council in Shanghai and have been released for publication.
 - I would like to express my thanks to the drafting Committee: Max Bavin, Ralph Cohen, Grattan Endicott (co-ordinator) Joan Gerard, Ton Kooijman, Jeffrey Polisner, Antonio Riccardi, William Schoder, John Wignall (Chairman).



The Future

- But this is really the time to look forward, to plan for and consider events that are coming up next year as there are some very exciting prospects in store, especially for young players, the lifeblood of our game

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- There will be two major Simultaneous Pairs during the year
 - the Charity Pairs, held over five days from 21st – 25th January, with the funds raised going to **UNICEF**, the charity for all the world's children, and
 - the World Wide Bridge Contest on Friday 6th & Saturday 7th June.
 - We hope clubs from all over the world will join us for these events and continue to build on their success.

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- The WBF Women's Committee has arranged an exciting new event for women players all over the world, in conjunction with BBO. It is an online Women's Festival, to be held from 7th – 13th April, with tournaments in all zones. Full information will be on the WBF Website in due course, but we hope you will advise all your women players so they can join in what I am sure is going to be a very enjoyable event.

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- The main event in 2008 is, of course, the **1st World Mind Sport Games**, where we hope to have one national youth team from every WBF Member Country participating in the **World Bridge Games** – or at the very least a pair from each country. Players must be aged 28 or under and we are very pleased to be able to provide **full board accommodation free of charge and free air flight tickets** for the players and officials in both this and the
 - World Youth Championships – the Ortiz Patiño Trophy for Under-26s and the José Damiani Cup for Under 21s.

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- The World Mind Sport Games will also comprise the Open & Women's series, formally called the Olympiad and as separate events.
As long as NBOs send at least one team or one pair or an individual player to the Youth Games, then we will be able to provide free accommodation for some of the Women's or Open Teams
 - In addition, we will hold the Senior International Cup and the World Transnational Mixed Teams

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- You all know of my personal commitment to Youth Bridge, and Beijing is the culmination of a dream, where we can have young players from all over the world competing in a spirit of friendship and unity in accordance with the Olympic ideal.

I hope all of you will ensure that, even if you can't send a full youth team to the Games, you at least send a pair to compete in the pairs event or maybe even an individual to participate in the Individual Championship

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- Whatever your role within bridge – whether you are a player, an official within a club, district or federation, a spectator or a writer, I am sure you can see that this event in Beijing is going to be a great opportunity for bridge. Please help us by trying to ensure that at least one youth team from each and every WBF member country joins us next October, to affirm our belief that Junior Bridge is essential to the future of our great sport.

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- **Details of the events, the format and other information about the World Bridge Games can be found on the WBF Website and on the ECatsBridge site, so please – visit the sites and find out more!**



Finally ..

- Both personally and on behalf of my colleagues on the WBF Executive Council, I would like to take the opportunity of wishing you, your families and your bridge colleagues, my warmest best wishes for this Festive Season, and my hope that, for you all, 2008 is a very prosperous and enjoyable year
 - For links to other documents, please go to the next page...

Links to items that may be of interest

- [Click here](#) to go to the WBF Website for information about all the WBF Championships
- [Click here](#) for the WBF Master Point Lists
- [Click here](#) to go to the ECatsBridge site for more information about Beijing
- [Click here](#) for information about the World Charity Pairs and
- [Click here](#) for information about the World Wide Bridge Contest

- If you have problems downloading any of these documents, please email Anna Gudge, the WBF Liaison Officer : anna@ecats.co.uk and she will do her best to assist you.