



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 2007 holds for us.

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- 2006 started well, with the WBF Charity Pairs raising much needed funds to build a school, to be called the WBF School, in the area of Pakistan devastated by the earthquake. The January 2007 Charity Pairs will once again be seeking to raise funds for the School and we hope that you will encourage your clubs to take part, so that building work can start in the Spring.

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- The World Championships, held in Verona, were a great success, with players from all over the world coming to Italy to enjoy the excellent venue and the wonderful hospitality offered by the Italian Federation. Several players achieved the rank of World Grand Master during the event as they became World Champions and we congratulate them.

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- We were delighted with the outstanding publicity generated by these Championships, which caused a great deal of interest worldwide.
 - 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.

Junior Bridge in 2006

- Two major Junior Championships were staged in 2006:
 - The 2006 World Youth Championships in Bangkok and
 - The World University Championships in Tianjin

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- Both events were extremely successful and, following our commitment made in Verona, the WBF assisted some countries to participate.
 - This is in accordance with our policy to focus on Youth Bridge, something it is our intention to continue doing in the future, and especially in 2008 at the World Mind Sport Games



The Future

- But this is really the time to look forward, to plan for and consider events that are coming up, both next year and the year after, in 2008, as there are some very exciting prospects in store

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- As I mentioned before, January is the time for the WBF Charity Pairs – please **click here** to go to the web pages about this event.
 - We do hope you will support us as much as you can by encouraging your clubs to take part in this simple and fun competition, so that the WBF School can be built quickly and provided much needed education in this area of Pakistan.

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- The next event on the WBF Calendar is the World Wide Bridge Contest, to be held on Friday 1st & Saturday 2nd June.
 - As normal, Eric Kokish will be providing the commentary, and we hope that as many clubs as possible will join us for this fun competition which is enjoyed by so many players from all over the world. **Click here** for more information.

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- September sees the start of the World Championships in Shanghai – this vibrant city will, we are sure, prove a fantastic venue for the event. The World Transnational Open Teams will give players the opportunity of enjoying not only playing, but also watching the final stages of the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup and Seniors Bowl. They will have the chance to experience all the atmosphere and tense excitement as they all battle for the title of World Champion.

And what of 2008 ?

- 2008 will see the first ever World Mind Sport Games, to be held in Beijing. This is going to be a truly amazing event, bringing together some of the great Mind Sports with their own Champion players, while at the same time giving youngsters the chance to enter the arena with their own Championships and competitions.

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- The WBF is planning to invite as many Junior Pairs and Teams to Beijing as possible, and is hoping to be able to subsidise their travel costs as well as provide free, full board accommodation during their stay at the event.

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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 in October 2008, to affirm our belief that Junior Bridge is essential to the future of our great sport.

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- **Click here** for some early information about this exciting development, uniting the four Federations of the traditional Mind Sports for the first time.
 - From the web page you can also download a presentation in Power Point format giving more details of this event.

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, 2007 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
- [Click here](#) for the WBF Master Point Lists
- [Click here](#) to go to the pages where you can download:
 1. The Presentation made by the President on Promotion and development
 2. The President's report to Congress
 3. The Minutes of Congress
 4. The Treasurer's Report to Congress
 5. The WBF Financial Statements
- [Click here](#) to download a presentation about the World Mind Sport Games
- [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.