



# WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

40 Rue Francois 1er, 75008 Paris, France  
Tel: +33 1 53 23 03 15 Fax: +33 1 40 70 14 51  
Email: cfrancin@worldbridgefed.com



## New Year Message from the President of the World Bridge Federation, Mr José Damiani

Dear Bridge Friend

Looking back over 2009 shows us a year in which we consolidated the excellent work done during the World Mind Sport Games, as we followed up the extremely important contact made with the IOC and GAISF in order further to cement and develop our relationship with these two bodies. Bridge and the other Mind Sports, Chess, Draughts and Go, are working together under the aegis of IMSA (the International Mind Sports Association) and seeking to stage an equally successful Mind Sport Games in 2012. We will, of course, keep you fully informed of any developments regarding this event.

2009 saw the inauguration of the World Youth Congress, held in Istanbul and comprising both Pairs and Teams events. The young players who participated all found it a great experience and we fully intend to build on the success of the event for future such Congresses.

The World Bridge Teams Championships were held in Sao Paulo, Brazil. I must pay tribute to my dear friend and colleague, Ernesto d'Orsi, who organised a superb event, one that will be remembered by all those who attended it. I offer my congratulations to the Chinese Women's Team who won the Venice Cup, to the United States Open Team, winners of the Bermuda Bowl and to the English Team for their victory in the Seniors Bowl.

And that brings me to the immediate future – to 2010.

The first event of 2010 will, as always, be a **Simultaneous Pairs**, played at the end of January with the proceeds going to UNICEF. Please [email Anna Gudge](#) if your club wishes to participate in this event. And please join us for the [2010 World Wide Bridge Contest](#) on **4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> June**.

The [5<sup>th</sup> World University Bridge Championships](#) organised by FISU, will be held in Chinese Taipei from 2<sup>nd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> August. We hope that all NBOs will support this event – as I am sure you are all aware, the WBF is strongly committed to the development of youth bridge. Young people are the future of our wonderful sport, and we need to do all that we can to encourage them to participate in such events.



But the main event of the year – the one we are all waiting for is the **World Bridge Series Championships**. What an event that is going to be!

It will be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA, between 1<sup>st</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> October 2010 and will comprise tournaments for pairs and teams in various categories (open, women, seniors, mixed) competing for many world titles. The World Youth Teams Championships, for qualified teams will also be held during the event.

The Championships are open to all bridge enthusiasts, with transnational entries permitted in all events except the Youth Championships. In

addition, to attract players of varied skill levels, Regional Championships will be staged throughout the tournament, awarding both WBF and ACBL master points. We have arranged special rates at hotels in Philadelphia – **especially at the headquarters hotel, where play will take place, the Marriott Down Town.**

Full details of these, together with the time table of events and many other details can be found on our website at [www.worldbridge.org](http://www.worldbridge.org) as well as at [www.usbf.org](http://www.usbf.org) and [www.ecatsbridge.com](http://www.ecatsbridge.com) and the WBF looks forward to welcoming the many thousands of bridge players coming to Philadelphia for this truly exceptional Championship.

During the course of the Championships in Brazil, the future President of the World Bridge Federation was elected – Gianarrigo Rona (pictured on the right), a long-time friend and close colleague, will take on the Presidency when I step down in Philadelphia.



Gianarrigo has a wealth of experience to offer as a result of his Presidency of the Italian Bridge Federation and also of the European Bridge League and I know he will prove a very capable leader of the World Bridge Federation and I have total confidence in handing over the reins to him. I wish him well for the future.

It seems strange that this should be my last New Year Message. I have been President for 16 years, and the World Bridge Federation has been a major part of my life for so many years that I will certainly miss the many challenges it brings. I plan to continue to work for bridge through IMSA, however, and certainly will be seeing many of you at Championships in the future, when perhaps we will have more time to talk and maybe discuss some bridge hands together.

I wish you all a very Happy and Prosperous New Year and hope to see you in Philadelphia next October

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'José Damiani', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

**José Damiani**  
**President, World Bridge Federation**