



BRIDGE

A TRUE SPORT FOR ALL





The World Bridge Federation



Bridge has been played since the 1850s and competitive bridge since 1925.

The World Bridge Federation - W.B.F. - was founded in August 1958 in Oslo by the representatives of the American Contract Bridge League, European Bridge League and Australian Bridge Council, organizations themselves founded in the 1930s.

WBF is subdivided in 8 Zones and counts 128 affiliated NBOs with more than one million registered members.








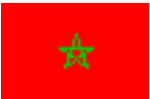






The African Bridge Federation

Thanks to the efforts of **Bharat Bhardwaj**, **Julius Butkov** and **Pierre Chavanaz**, the African Bridge Federation (ABF) was founded after the decision by the WBF to separate the nations of the African continent from Zone 4 (BFAME).

Following a meeting held in Lille in 1998 and a subsequent meeting held in Cairo in February 1999, attended by the WBF President José Damiani and Vice President Mazhar Jafri, the African Bridge Federation was officially launched in Abidjan, Ivory Coast on 30th May 2001, under the Presidency of Barat Bhardwaj from Kenya. Today the ABF counts the following affiliated National Bridge Organisations: Botswana, Cameroon, Egypt, Kenya, Madagascar, Morocco, Nigeria, Réunion, South Africa, Tunisia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.



ABF National Bridge Organisations

			
BOTSWANA	CAMEROON	EGYPT	KENYA
			
MADAGASCAR	MOROCCO	NIGERIA	REUNION
			
SOUTH AFRICA	TUNISIA	ZAMBIA	ZIMBABWE



BRIDGE BRIDGES AGES





INTRODUCTION

Physical activity is a fundamental necessity for the human being

Mental activity is an indispensable complement

Bridge is an excellent gymnastic of the mind for men and women of all
ages, all races and all religions

It is a sport for 60 million players in the world

Bridge is played in 130 countries on all continents





BRIDGE BRIDGES AGES

Bridge is a **TRUE SPORT**

Bridge contributes to **EDUCATION**

Bridge contributes to **HEALTH**

Bridge is a **SOCIAL** as well as a **COMPETITIVE GAME**

Bridge has **NO BARRIERS**

Bridge is **SPORT, HOBBY AND CULTURE**



BRIDGE IS A SPORT

- Bridge comprises all the elements that characterise a sport: fair-play, discipline, rules, ethics, application, training, competition, performance.
- Bridge has been defined “the sport of the mind”, but is not only a sport for the brain: it requires particular concentration, fighting spirit, quick reflexes and stamina; qualities only achieved through physical fitness.



BRIDGE IS A SPORT

- Bridge means complete acceptance of the rules and, above all, strict respect of ethics.
- A first international code of laws was introduced in 1871.





BRIDGE IS A SPORT

- The WBF received recognition, pursuant to rule 29 of the Charter, from the IOC during the 109th Session in Seoul, March 1999.
- In October 1999 in Montecarlo the WBF was accepted as a member of GAISF (General Association of International Sports Federation)

CERTIFICAT
CERTIFICATE

A l'occasion de la
On the occasion of the



109^e SESSION DU COMITE INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIQUE A SEOUL
109th SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE
IN
SEOUL
du 17 au 18 mars 1999
from 17th to 18th March 1999

the WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION (WBF)

A ÉTÉ RECONNUE, SELON L'ARTICLE 29 DE LA
CHARTRE, PAR LE COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIQUE
*RECEIVED RECOGNITION, PURSUANT TO RULE 29 OF THE
CHARTER, FROM THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE*


JUAN ANTONIO SAMARANCH
PRÉSIDENT DU CIO



*“Bridge is a sport and, as such,
your place is here like other sports”*



Declared IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch on 7th September 1998 at the Opening of the 1st I.O.C. Grand Prix for Bridge at the Olympic Museum on realising that he was watching a true competition.



BRIDGE IS A SPORT

There is always a moment in history when a **game** becomes **sport**

A game becomes a sport when it meets three essential criteria:

1. A code of **rules**

2. The prevailing of **skill** over luck

3. A **competitive spirit**, i.e. The players aim to win



Among the numerous sports, which one is closer to the main characteristics of the human race, compared to the characteristics of the rest of the animal kingdom?



In a sport based on **power** a man will lose for sure if compared to a gorilla or an elephant





In a sport based on **speed** a man will yield
to a horse or a cheetah





In a sport based on **agility** a man would
be defeated by an ape



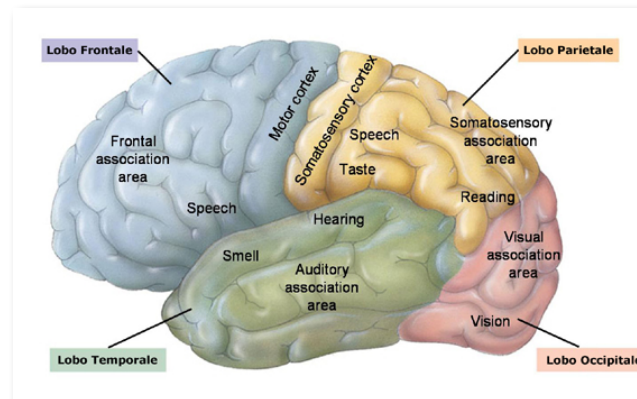


In a sport based on **grace** a man will be humiliated by a bird or a fish





Yet there is a sphere where a man fears no comparison, and that is the one concerning
intelligence



In an intelligence challenge a man knows he can excel over any other living species in the world



Therefore, a sport mainly based on intelligence, enhancing the peculiar gift of humanity, is a sport more “**human**” than the others





BRIDGE & EDUCATION

- Unesco and numerous Ministries of Education recognized the education value of bridge
- Mini Bridge teaches very young people to memorize, concentrate and reason
- Bridge reflects real life situations.
Negative events must be accepted with serenity and discipline.



Daan & Nick, years old, National Mini Bridge Champions The Netherlands



BRIDGE & EDUCATION

- Bridge is a sport for students
- FISU organizes World Bridge University Championships





BRIDGE & HEALTH

- Practicing bridge ensures a longer life of conviviality
- Practicing bridge is an excellent protection against illnesses such as Alzheimer and Parkinson
- The pictures show Anna (90) and Jean (81). She plays almost every day in her retirement home. He is still a fanatic club player





BRIDGE IS SOCIAL & COMPETITIVE

- Bridge teaches spirit, dialogue, communication, aggregation, friendship and solidarity
- Bridge is played on the internet from New York to Beijing with partner or opponents in Rome or London
- Bridge can be played as a competitive game as well as for a mere recreation





BRIDGE IS SOCIAL & COMPETITIVE

Young and old match well in bridge.





PARTICIPATION WITHOUT BARRIERS



- No barriers in bridge
- People with physical disabilities and even blind can compete all together with other competitors
- No differences and equal amount of chances



BRIDGE AND TECHNOLOGY

At bridge events the latest video and computer technology permits spectators to follow the play in the “BridgeRama” auditorium or theatre.





BRIDGE AND COMMUNICATION

- All large events are now transmitted via Internet.
- And there are approximately 700 bridge journalists in the International Bridge Press Association who write nearly 3000 bridge columns.

3086
bridge
players at
Ajax
Football
Stadium





CONCLUSION



- Bridge can be played at any level, any age, any time anywhere
- In Bridge there are neither barriers nor discrimination.
- Bridge is not only a fair game, but also an ethic one.
- Bridge is not only a way of thinking but also a way of being
- Bridge is hobby, sport and culture
- “Bridge for peace” is the motto of bridge players all over the world
- Bridge bridges ages and is a sport for a lifetime



“Bridge for peace”

is the World Bridge Federation’s motto:

“To defeat hatred we play the Card of Peace”.

*Let us make it ours,
let us feel that it is ours
and, united as one, striving all together,
let us be proud of it.*



In order to defeat hatred,
we play the Card of Peace

