

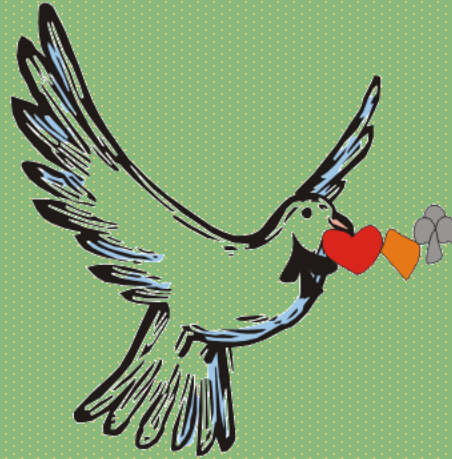
BRIDGE

a True Sport for All



By Gianarrigo Rona & Simon Fellus

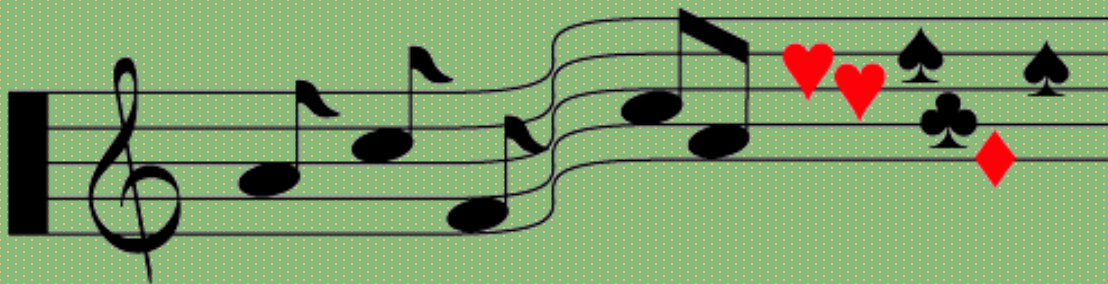




“Bridge for Peace”

is the motto of bridge players all over the world !





“Bridge is, with music,
the only universal language”

*Li Lanqing, past Vice-Premier
of the People's Republic of China*

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, the European Bridge League and the Australian Bridge Council, organizations themselves founded in the 1930s.

THE CONFEDERACION SUDAMERICANA DE BRIDGE



Thanks to the efforts of Alejandro Castro, President of the Argentina Bridge Federation, in Buenos Aires in 1948 the first international bridge competition in South America was organized with the participation of Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Uruguay. The “Confederación Sudamericana de Bridge” was founded in 1955 by the representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay. Today the CSB counts 10 full affiliated National Bridge Organisations: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

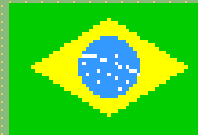
CSB National Bridge Organisations



ARGENTINA



BOLIVIA



BRAZIL



CHILE



COLOMBIA



ECUADOR



PARAGUAY



PERU

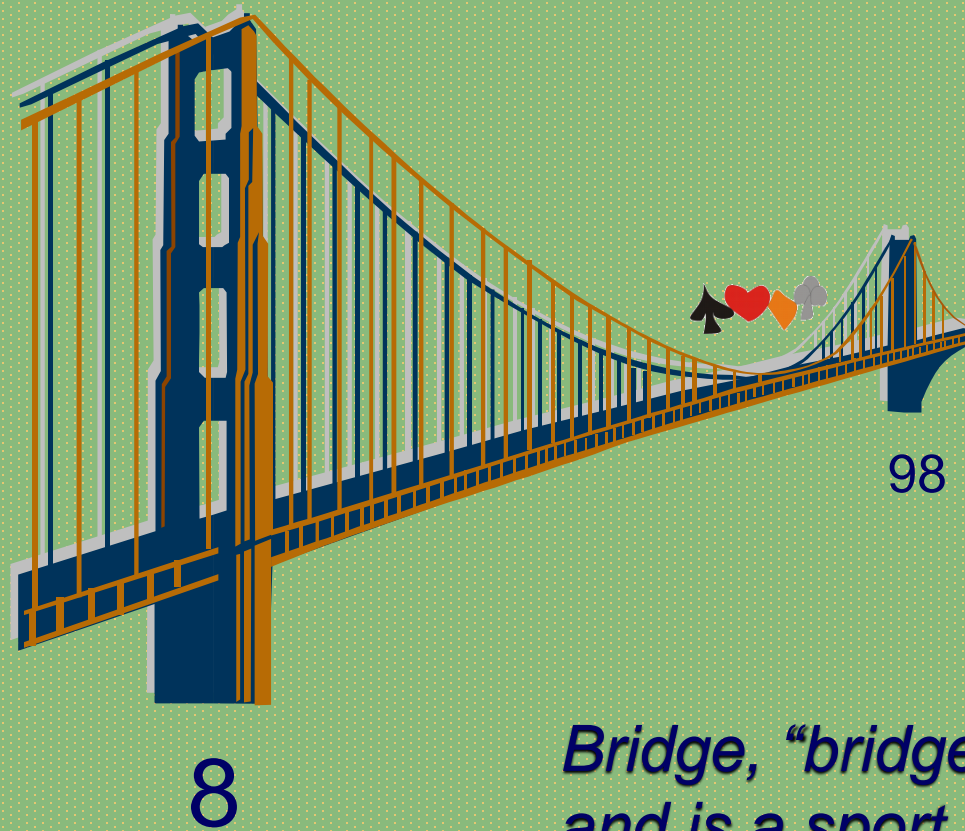


URUGUAY



VENEZUELA

Bridge is a true sport



*Bridge, “bridges ages”
and is a sport for a lifetime !*

Bridge is a true sport

- Physical activity is a fundamental necessity for a 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 5 continents



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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 a sport, a hobby and a culture



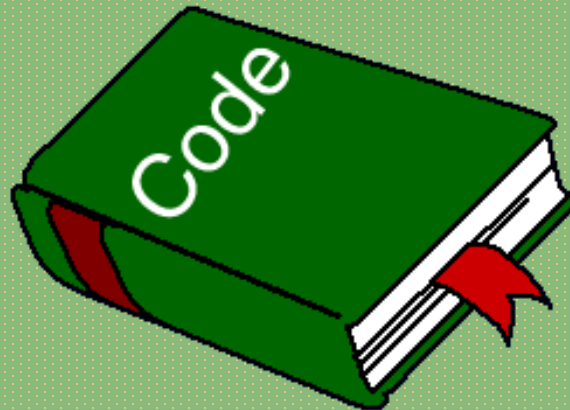
Bridge is a true sport

- ***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



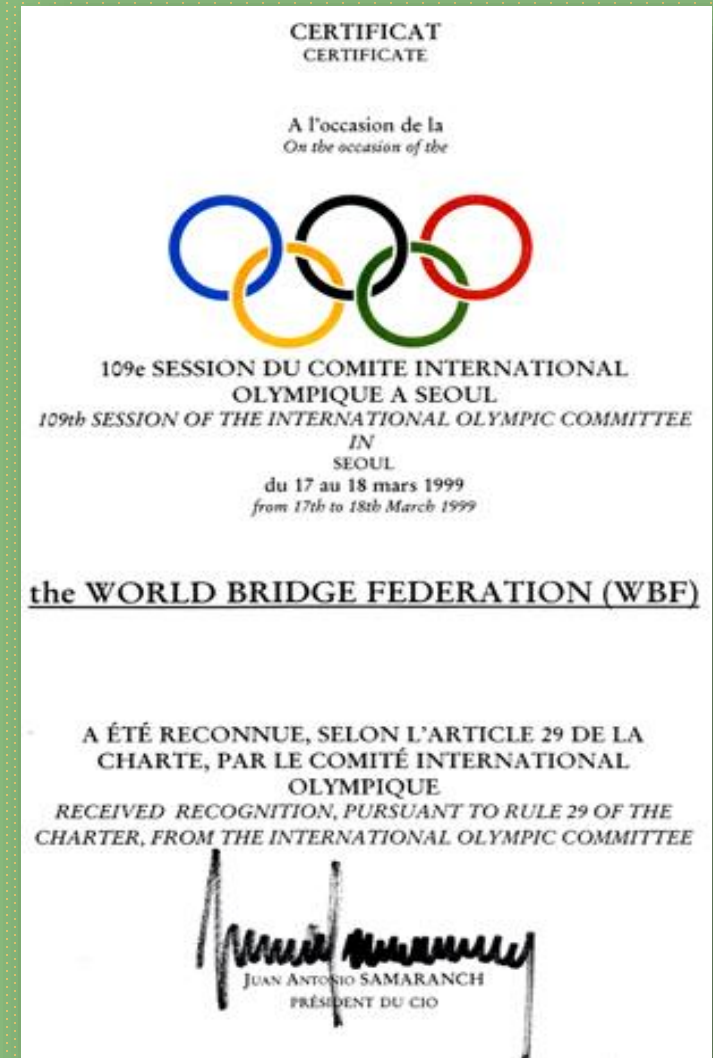
Bridge is a true sport

- ***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 true sport

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





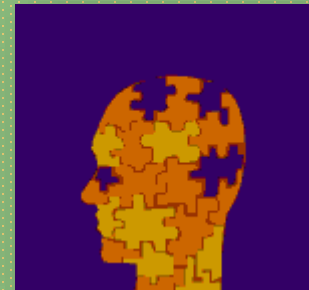
*“Bridge is a sport and,
as such,
your place is here like
other sports”*

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



Bridge is a true sport

On the occasion of the Sport Accord Congress, held in Berlin, Germany on April 19th 2005, The World Bridge Federation (WBF), The International Chess Federation (FIDE), The World Federation of the Draught Games (FMJD) and The International GO Federation (IGF) met together under the aegis of the General Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF), and decided to constitute the **International Mind Sports Association (IMSA)**.



Bridge is a true sport

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

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

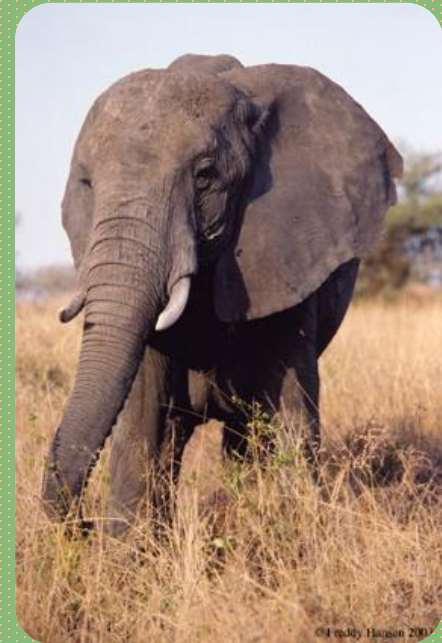
- A code of **rules**
- The prevailing of **skill** over luck
- A **competitive spirit**, i.e. the players aim to win



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



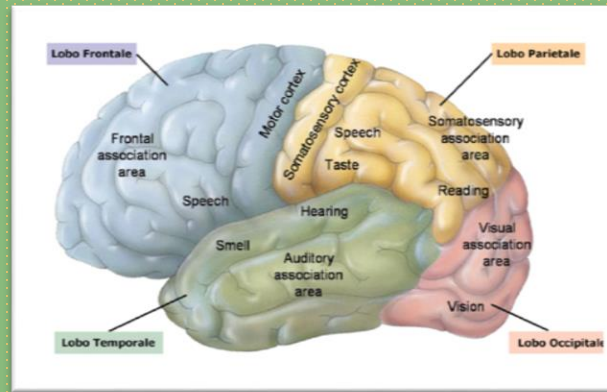
In a sport based on **agility** a man would be defeated by a monkey



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 is a true sport

- 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



**Lorraine & Alicia, National Mini Bridge
Champions The Netherlands**

Bridge is a true sport

- *Bridge* is also a terrific sport for students
- FISU organizes World Bridge University Championships
- EUSA organizes European Bridge University Championships



Bridge is a true sport

Bridge and health

- Playing ***Bridge*** ensures a longer life of conviviality
- Playing ***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 a true sport

Bridge and health

- Peter Severens living in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, was severely injured in a car accident in May 1989 and lost half his memory. In 1991 he took **Bridge** lessons
- By playing **Bridge** he completely regained his memory in a year and a half
- The pictures show Peter in an article of “Bridge Beter” Magazine and his car, which was at total loss



BRIDGE Beter ONTMOET

... PETER SEVERENS

Tijdens een drive op de 's-Gravenhaagse Bridge School raakte uw verslaggever bij toeval in gesprek met Peter Severens. De televisies van Severens vond hij dermate opzienbarend dat hij besloot hem te interviewen.

Kunt u de lezers in het kort uitleggen wie u bent en wat u doet?

Hoe lang spelen jullie al bridge?

Kunt u daar iets meer over zeggen?

Ik ben 53 jaar en woon in Rotterdam, alwaar ik voor de gemeente werk en me bezig houd met de toewijzing en het beheer van bedrijfspanden. Mijn vriendin Francien en ik kennen eigenlijk maar één grote hobby: bridge.

Francien speelt al heel wat jaar, terwijl ik pas in 1991 begonnen ben. En daar had ik toen een hele bijzondere reden voor.

Met alle plezier, hoewel de aanleiding helemaal niet zo leuk was. U moet weten dat in mei 1989 ik samen met Francien slachtoffer ben geworden van een ernstig auto-ongeluk. Francien bleef vrijwel ongedeerd, maar ik liep zwaar lichamelijk en geestelijk letsel op. Ik verbleef een maand in het Dijkzigt Ziekenhuis en volgde daarna een moeizaam proces om weer te gaan leren lopen. Ik zat voor langere tijd in de ziekteverzuim. Mijn wereld leek helemaal in te storten toen bleek dat ik mijn geheugen voor de helft kwijt was. De therapie die ik vanuit het ziekenhuis meekreeg hielp niet echt. Francien adviseerde mij toen om mijn hersens te gaan trainen. Op haar aanraden zijn we samen in september 1991 op bridgeles gegaan. We kregen les van een bijzonder plezierige leraar, André Steffen. Nadat we ons door de eerste twee deeltjes van de beginnersreeks 'Van Start tot Finish' hadden geworsteld, gebeurde er met mij iets fantastisch. Terwijl ik mij tot dan toe onzeker en twijfel voelde, begon ik door dat bridge weer op te monteren. En nog belangrijker, ik merkte dat mijn geheugen aan het terugkomen was. Tegelijkertijd begonnen we echt verslaafd aan het spelletje raken. Dat merkte onze leraar natuurlijk ook en hij vond dat we rijp waren om op een club te gaan. Dat werd dan Bridge Club Fus in de Alexanderpolder waar we reuze zijn opgevangen. Van die club zijn we nog lid. Maar ondertussen spelen we ook bij andere gelegenheden. Wat wil je, we vinden het alomtegenwoordig en met mijn geheugen is het helemaal in orde gekomen. Mijn conclusie is dus dat mensen die problemen hebben met hun geheugen er beslist gebaat bij zouden kunnen zijn om zich te verdiepen in een denkport.

Bridge is a true sport

Bridge is social and 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 a for recreation



Bridge is a true sport

Bridge is social and competitive

Young and old
match well in ***Bridge!***



Bridge is a true sport

Participation without barriers

- No barriers in ***Bridge***
- People with physical disabilities including the blind can compete together with other competitors
- No differences and equal amount of chances



Bridge is a true sport

Bridge and technology

At ***Bridge*** events the latest video and computer technology permits spectators to follow the play in the ***Bridge Rama*** auditorium or theatre



Bridge is a true sport

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 ethical one.
- *Bridge* is not only a way of thinking but also a way of being
- *Bridge* is a hobby, a sport and a culture
- *Bridge* is a sport more “human” than the others
- *Bridge for Peace* is the motto of bridge players all over the world
- *Bridge*, “bridges ages” and is a sport for a lifetime!

