Short historical overview

Initiatives and ideas
   Zones
   WBF

Food for thought and discussion
### Short historical overview - 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name zone</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>nbo’s</th>
<th>members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>zone 1 EBL</td>
<td>1947</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>282k</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>zone 2 NABF</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>130k</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>zone 3 CSB</td>
<td>1955</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2.7k</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>zone 4 BFAME</td>
<td>1979</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6.2k</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>zone 5 CAC</td>
<td>1971</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0.6k</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>zone 6 APBF</td>
<td>1957</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>58.5k</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>zone 7 SPBF</td>
<td>1991</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>45.8k</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>zone 8 ABF</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4.0k</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WBF</td>
<td>1957</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>530k</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Every year WBF organizes 1 championship for both youth and adults, in 4 yr cycles:

Odd years: WBTC (Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup, d’Orsi Trophy and Wuhan Cup)

Even years: WYTBC (transnational teams and pairs)

years:
- 1x WBS (transnational teams and pairs championship, no limits per country)
- 1x WBG (‘Olympiad’, including teams (1 team/country) and national pairs)
Zones have their own schedules, for instance EBL:

Every year  Small Fed Games (3 d), Championscup (3 d) & Wintergames (1 wk)
Odd years  European Transnational Bridge Championships:
    7 days Senior and Mixed teams pairs BAM
    8 days Open and Women teams pairs BAM
Even years  European National Team Championships incl 4 days nat’l pairs Senior/Women
In total only a few thousand participants for both WBF and zones, about 0,5% of members!

Zonal Officer’s Seminar: irregular but EBL organizes every 2 years, about 60 participants

Youth Coach Seminar: every 2 years in Europe, about 30 participants, also outside Europe

TD training course/workshop: every year in Europe, about 30 participants, also outside Europe

Since 2024 youth coach and TD training under WBF umbrella, but still organised in Europe
Online initiatives in zone 1

Women Online Training Program, 300+ participants from 20+ countries, see:
https://sites.google.com/view/wbc-onlinetraining/home

First European Women Online Team Championships, see:
http://db.eurobridge.org/repository/competitions/24womenonline/microsite/Information.htm

2021 Online Qualification for WBTC Salsomaggiore 2022, see:
http://db.eurobridge.org/repository/competitions/21OnlineNationalTeams/microsite/Information.htm
Online initiatives in zone 2 and others

USBF trials, see:


Other zones:
?
Online initiatives in WBF

Online Women’s Teams 2024, 64 teams, 32 countries, see:

Online Small Federations Championships 2024, see:
May 13 email to 55 federations <300 members
Why is Online getting more important?

Participation (players, nbo’s) is declining although entry fees are unchanged for decades.

Costs face-to-face keep rising: travel, hotel, food for both participants and organizers.

Budgets of WBF, zones, nbo’s, local organizers and participants keep shrinking as a trend.

Environmental discussions (flights are not eco friendly, no more paper daily bulletins).

Attraction to youth (like new tech) and bridge community (all matches can be broadcasted).
Issues with Online bridge (or e-bridge)

Dependancy of platforms like Lovebridge, Realbridge, BBO not under our control

It’s not the same game we fell in love with, table presence, social aspects, travel

Security, security and security, but a lot of improvement has been established recent years

All chances automatically call for resistance but one day we have to show leadership if forced

We can be forced by costs (duplication, bbo, transport, caddies) or marketing (all matches)
EBL 2021 Online Qualifier was a success:

- 94 teams in 4 groups played on Realbridge in central location per country
- every location and participant was monitored by independent observer(s)
- total EBL costs of organization about $55k, entry fees $55k
- survey afterwards showed most players and nbo’s liked it (a lot)
Food for discussion

Taking declining participation and budgets and increasing costs and so on into consideration:

Why not investigate a (partial) switch from face-to-face to online or in future to e-bridge?

Or hybrid: qualification phase locally monitored online and knock outs later face-to-face?

Only for national championships? Or also for transnational championships? Youth?

Expanding Women’s Online championships to Open, Seniors, Mixed and Youth groups?
But of course now

We have some time for:

- remarks
- questions
- and maybe answers