



# Greetings from Dublin



**Mary Kelly Rogers**  
**WBF Women's Committee**



**To Officers and Delegates  
in Bangkok**





# WBF NBO Officers' Seminar

## Women's Bridge

A Way forward



**BFAME**

**4**

# Asia & Middle East **10**

**BANGLADESH**

**INDIA**

**JORDAN**

**KUWAIT**

**PAKISTAN**

**PALESTINE**

**SAUDI ARABIA**

**SRI LANKA**

**SYRIA**

**UNIT ARAB EMIRATES**

6



# Asia Pacific 11

CHINA

CHINESE TAIPEI

CHINA HONG KONG

INDONESIA

JAPAN

KOREA

CHINA MACAU

MALAYSIA

PHILIPPINES

SINGAPORE

THAILAND



7

# South Pacific 2

AUSTRALIA

NEW ZEALAND



# Africa 7

8

BOTSWANA

EGYPT

KENYA

MOROCCO

REUNION

SOUTH AFRICA

TUNISIA

# Women's Bridge Workshop

2018 - 9<sup>th</sup> EBL Officers' Seminar in Belfast

A Question was posed concerning

**The Women's Category in Bridge**

**'To be, or not to be, that is the question'**



And the answer from the Officers was **YES**

.... A process was thus put in place to **re-vitalise** it in the EBL



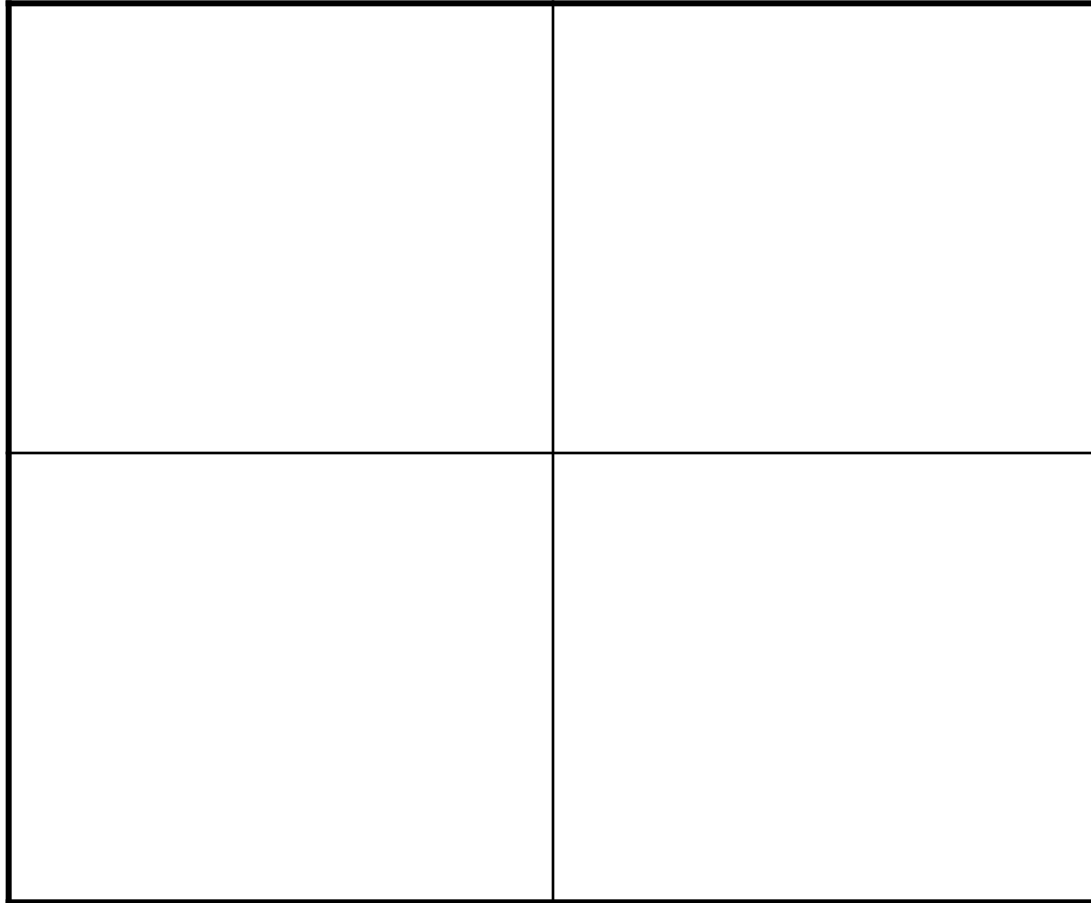


# The Proposal in Belfast

- **A Framework**
- **of Building Blocks**
- for the future of Women's Bridge
  
- This has worked well in the EBL
  
- And I propose it now  
to the Four Zones in Bangkok
- Regardless of the size of each Zone

# Framework


# A Framework of building blocks



# Framework

1	

# Framework

1	2

# Framework

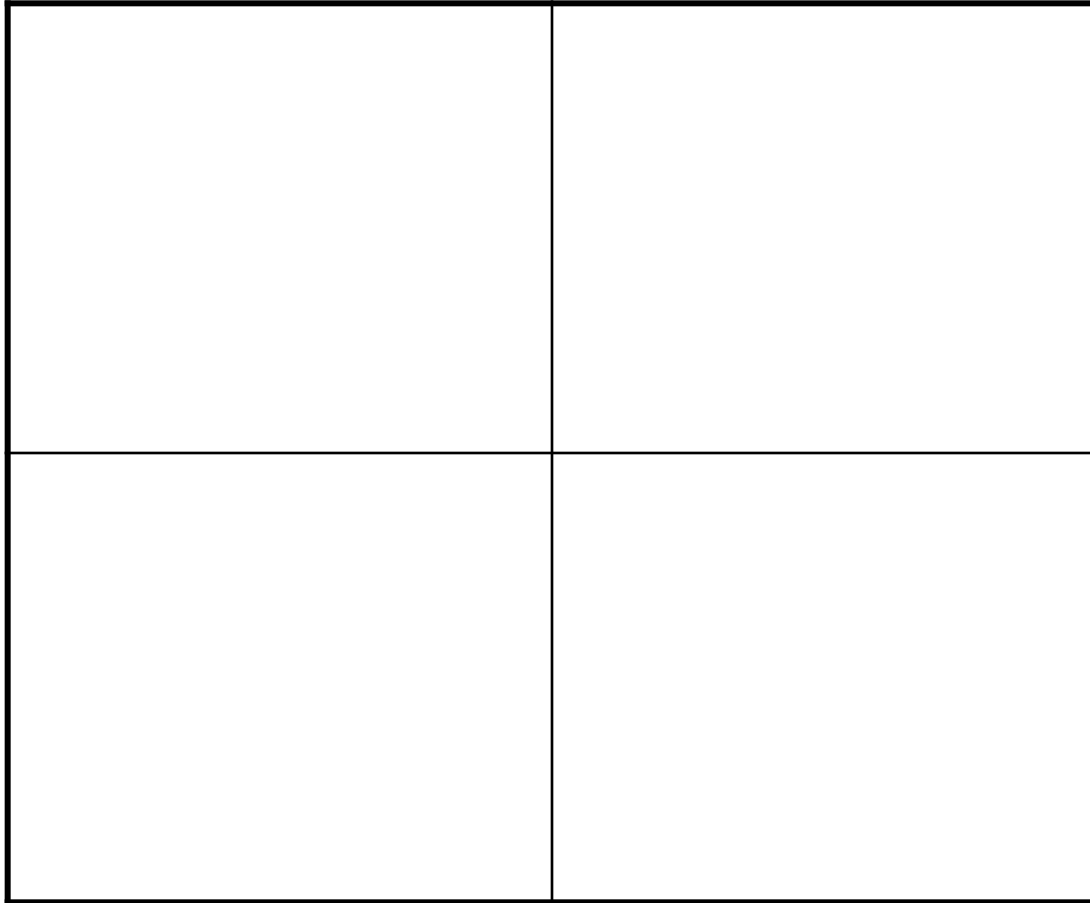
	3
1	2

# Framework

4	3
1	2



# Building Block No. 1



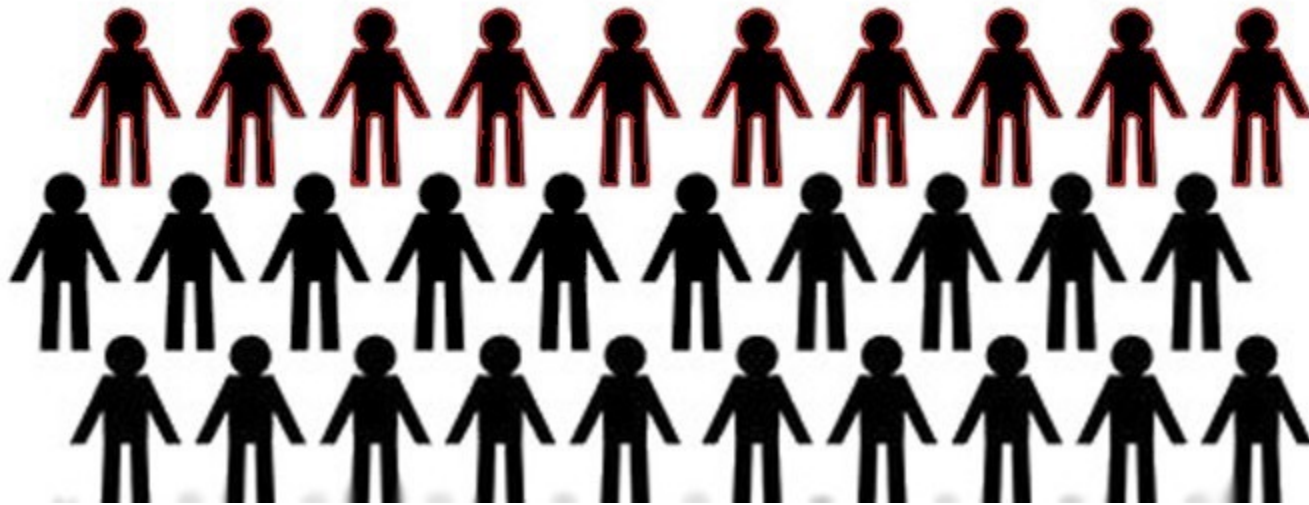
1. Women's Bridge Coordinator, appointed in each NBO	

# 1. Choose a person in each NBO



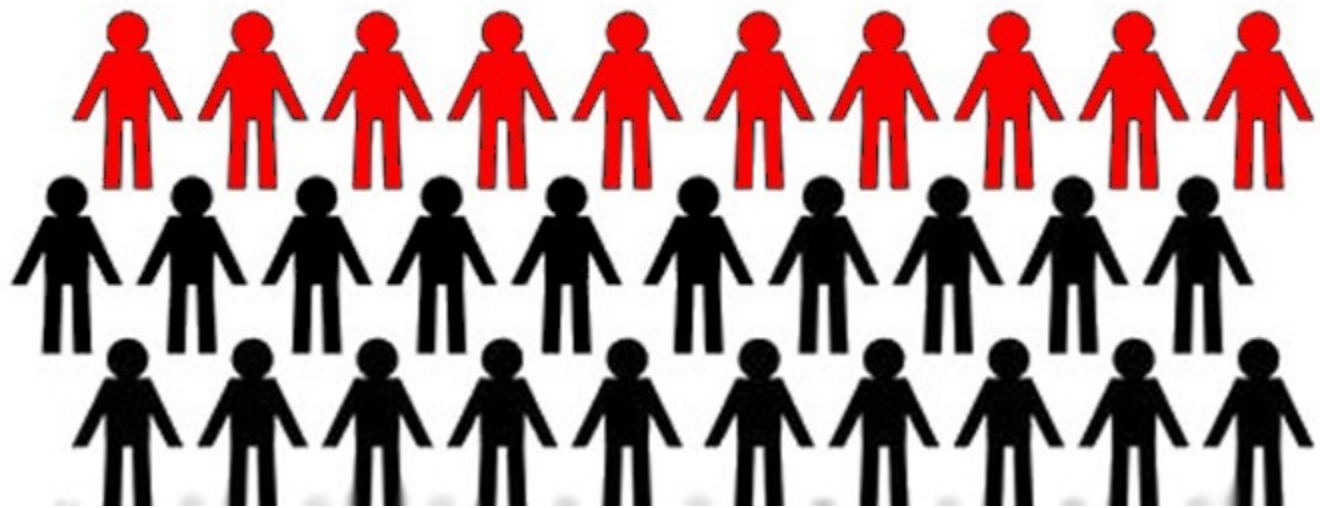


# Thirty Coordinators WBCs



# Asia and Middle East



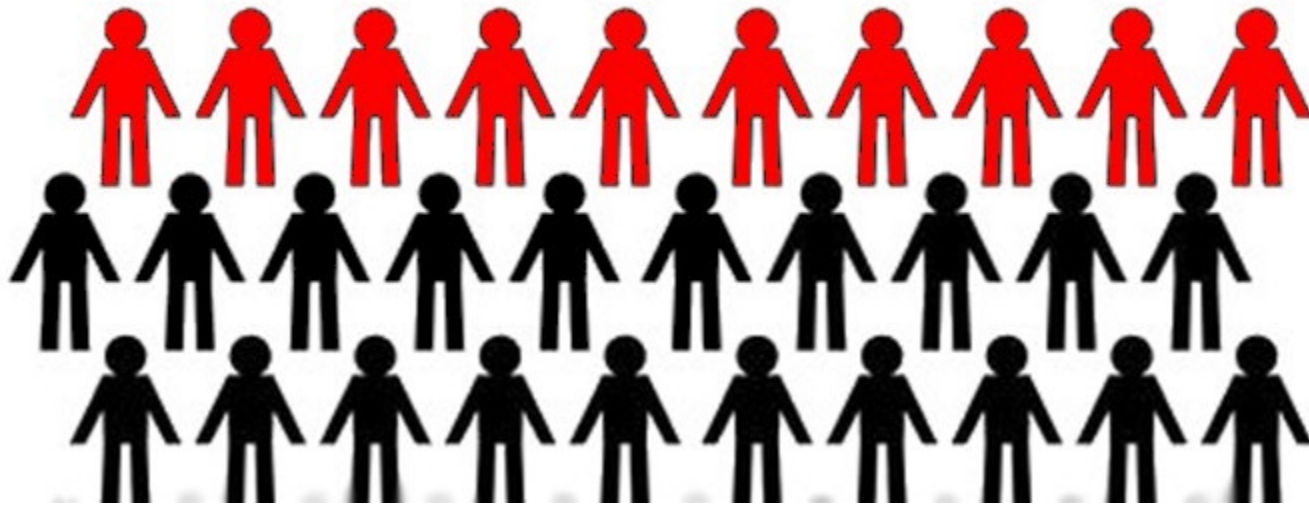


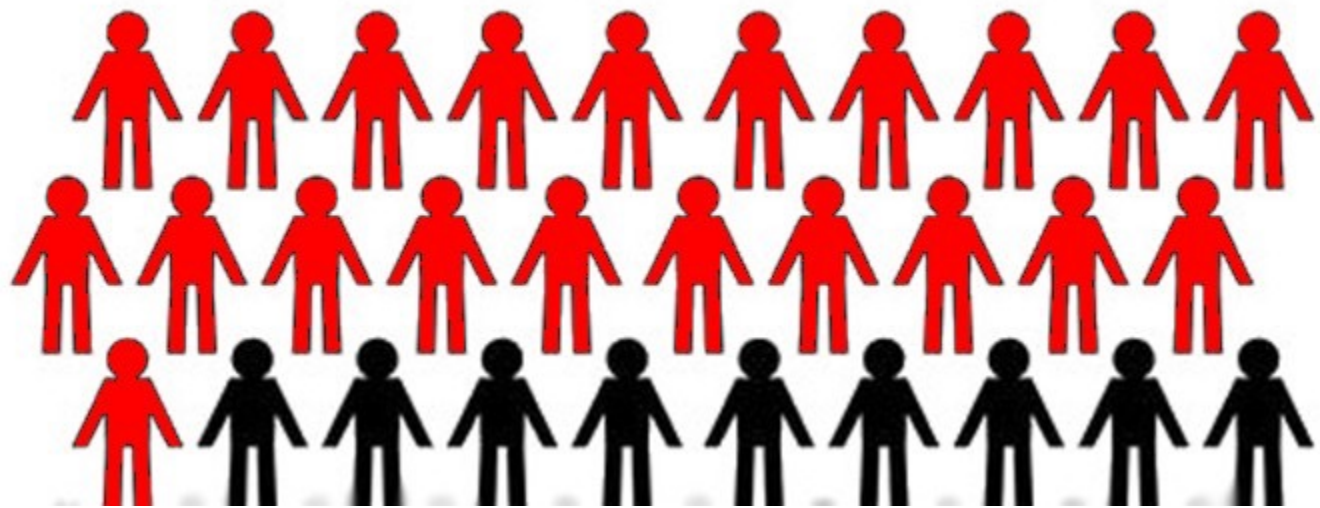
# Asia Pacific



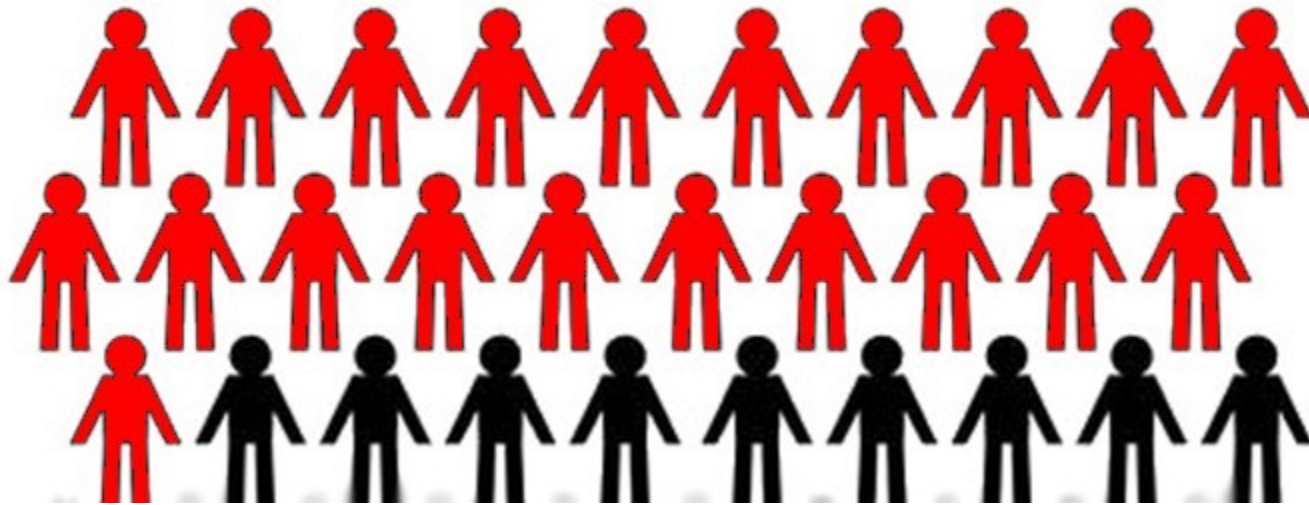


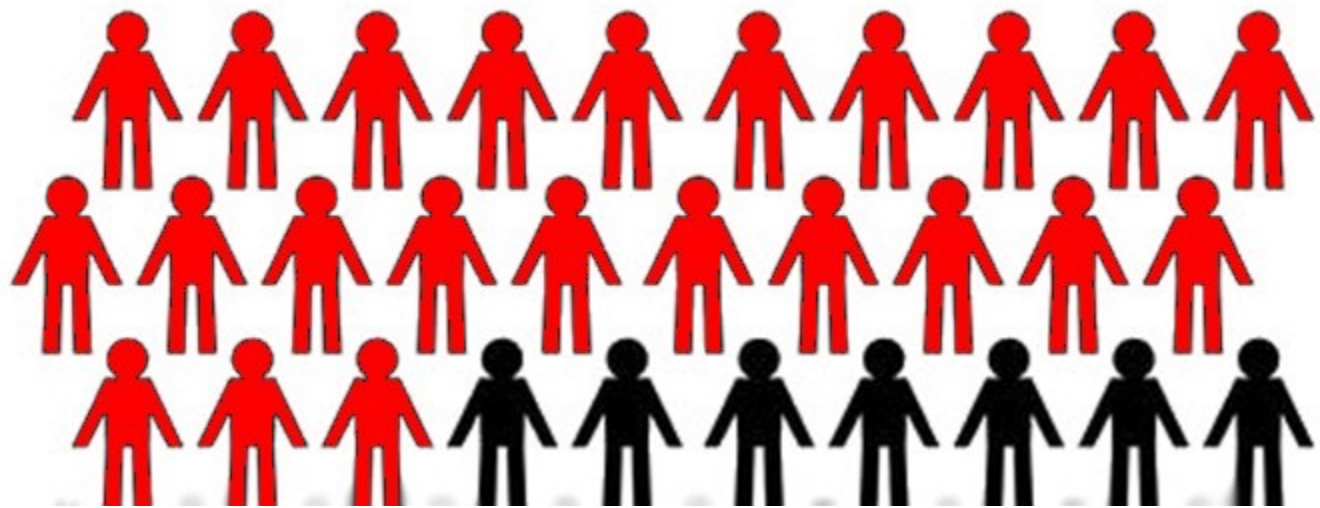
# Asia Pacific



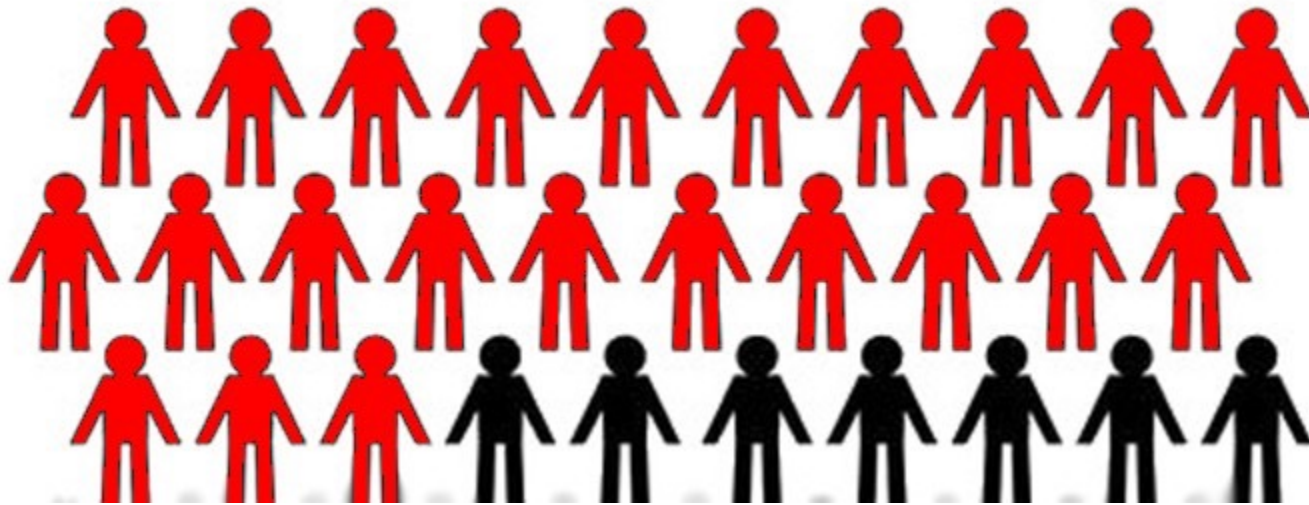


# South Pacific





# Africa





1. Women's Bridge Coordinator, appointed in each NBO	

# Building Block No. 2

1. Women's Bridge Coordinator, appointed in each NBO	2. A Database of women bridge players in each NBO



**2.** Each NBO to create a database of women players with permission from players



1. Women's Bridge Coordinator, appointed in each NBO	2. A Database of women bridge players in each NBO

# Building Block No. 3

	3. A WBC informs, encourages develops and networks
1. Women's Bridge Coordinator, appointed in each NBO	2. A Database of women bridge players in each NBO

# Building Block No. 4

4. Form a Zonal Women's Committee to oversee	3. A WBC informs, encourages develops and networks
1. Women's Bridge Coordinator, appointed in each NBO	2. A Database of women bridge players in each NBO

### 3. The Role of each Women's Bridge Coordinator (WBC)



**Inform** Women, using database supplied by his/her NBO

**Encourage** participation in Zonal and World events

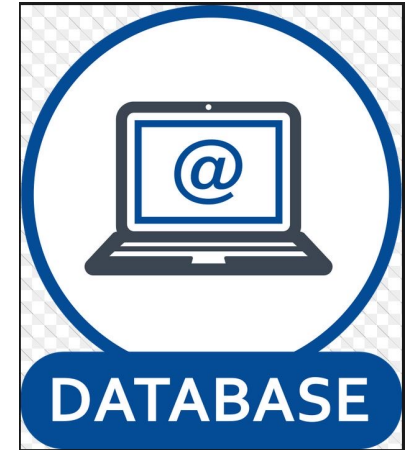
**Help** develop Women's international game.

**Use tools** (BBO, RealBridge, Online)

Practice matches within NBOs  
NBOs V NBOs, Women V Stars

**Plan** Training sessions

**Works with NBO and Zonal Women's Committee**



# The Coordinator

A person:-

- Willing and able to communicate
- To follow up with NBO on supply of Database and notices on websites
- Responsible for circulation of Newsletters and Promotional material
- Works with women on Bridge Development and Training



**Helle Rasmussen (Denmark)**  
Top Player

- “Being a women's coordinator is great.
- It gives you a big network of people who are just as dedicated to work for the promotion of women's bridge, as you are.
- So necessary to promote women in bridge; all studies show the imbalance in numbers of female 'club' players and female top players.
- Working with the other coordinators makes the world 'smaller', and arranging matches between countries gets easier and easier - for the benefit of all the players - and for bridge in general “.



**Coordinator of the Year  
2023**

# Coordinator System – A Medium and Long-Term Goal:

- Is to encourage women's **participation** in World and Zone events both **Live and Virtual, and**
- To help women **attain their goal.**



# RESULTS from EBL **Framework**

- Formation of **30 WBCs**
- EBL Women's **Newsletters to Inform**
- Scheduled **BBO Practice matches** between NBOs
  
- **Coaches coached**
- **Players developed and trained**
  
- EBL Women Series of **Competitions** BBO & RealBridge for international women and separately for women who aspired to play internationally
  
- Covid came – a Network was in place –
- Online competition and training continued – RealBridge & BBO –
- **Women's Bridge in EBL was ALIVE**

**Fiona McQuaker**  
(Scotland)  
Venice Cup Player



“How fortunate we were to have EBL weekly practice matches in place, and women networking in Europe . . . when Covid closed our doors”.

- Scotland, Estonia, Norway, Sweden
- – first four teams for weekly practice matches,
- growing to 24

# Finally, the Work of the Women's Committee . . .



Feb 16-18, 2024

Uniting women,  
bridging gaps -  
World Bridge Federation  
**Women's Teams Online**



## The WBF Women's Committee **Vision for the Event**

- That it be affordable – no cost of travel or accommodation
- A positive online interaction between opposing teams.
- An event resembling face-to-face competition using screens and play protocols.
- All in a friendly atmosphere

All of the above were in keeping with WBF objectives

- **RealBridge** made all of this possible.

# The Outcome

- 64 teams played, 31 countries, 412 players
- 13 teams played from the Zones at this Conference
- Provisional date for next WBF Women's Online Teams  
**January 3-5, 2025**

# Online Teams - RealBridge February '24

## Players Comments

- “ 64 teams from 31 different countries participated....3 teams from South Africa!
- Considering the geographical divide and the various time zones the organization was fantastic ..... how was it all done!!!
- A great opportunity to play world class opposition from our home venues.
- The event was professionally run and easy to follow as a spectator.
- The bridge was challenging and invigorating!”
- **Roz Bernstein** (South Africa)

**Roz and Lang**





# A Club Involvement

**Taufik Asbi (Indonesia)**

- At the end of last year, the female players at our club were thrilled
- when the Club President announced
- that “Ganesha Bridge Club” would participate in the 2024 WBF Online Women’s Teams



# Friendly Relations

**Priya Balasubramanian (India)**

- “ We have a saying, “Vasudaiva Kutumbakam,”
- which means, “The World is One family.”  
This tourney really embodied this saying.
- Events such as this are great opportunities to further interest in women’s bridge
- and also provide players with role models to emulate and be inspired by”.



# Women's Online Festival

8-14 April

Spring 2024

Win Your Entry to Women's  
National Pairs in Buenos Aires

[More Infos](#)



- **WBF Women's Festival BBO - Spring Event**

Last month was 28<sup>th</sup> edition, now running for 17 years.  
Brainchild of WBF Women's Committee founder/chair  
Anna Maria Torlontano

- Winners across the World have included players from Zones here today.
- **Participation up 50% - Almost 5000 entries; 819 Players**
- Sponsored by WBF President Jan Kamras & BBO

# Newsletters to Inform

## WBF WOMEN'S NEWSLETTERS

**WBF WOMEN'S BRIDGE NEWSLETTER**



Editor: Mary Kelly Rogers  
August 2023



**SPECIAL EDITION FOR VENICE CUP 2023**

46<sup>th</sup> World Bridge Teams Championships  
WORLD WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS  
**VENICE CUP**  
MARRAKECH 2023  
20th August – 2nd September 2023

**WBF WOMEN'S BRIDGE NEWSLETTER**



NOVEMBER 2023  
Editor: Mary Kelly Rogers



**ISRAEL WORLD WOMEN'S CHAMPIONS VENICE CUP 2023**

Adi Asulin  
Hila Levi  
Noga Tal  
Dana Tal  
Ziv Roitman  
Adel Petelko

46<sup>th</sup> WORLD BRIDGE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS  
MARRAKECH 2023

**WBF WOMEN'S BRIDGE NEWSLETTER**



MARCH 2024  
Editor: Mary Kelly Rogers



**SEABASS USA WINS INAUGURAL WBF ONLINE WOMEN'S TEAMS 2024**

Top Left to Right: Susan Zhang (PC), Jill Meyers  
Bottom Left to Right: Kerri Sanborn, Sylvia Shi

64 teams from 31 countries competed for the title

on



### Mark Horton

- **Newsletter Congratulations!**
- **Virtual Podium**
- **Winner Jill Meyers**
- - appointed to IBPA Bulletin
- - to write on Women's events



*Mark Horton is perhaps the best-known bridge journalist in the world.*

*He is also a regular contributor to our Women's newsletters.*

*Long time editor of Bridge Magazine and A New Bridge Magazine he now edits Bridgerama US for 52 Entertainment and is Chief Editor to the WBF and the EBL.*

He is always on the lookout for new deals involving good bidding, play and defence, along with anyone who is interested in working as a writer for World and European Championship Bulletins.

You can contact him at:  
markhorton007@hotmail.com

### When the last card had been played

Mark writes: ...the podium looked like this:



#### 1<sup>st</sup> **Seabass (209.65)**

Susan Zhang (PC), Jill Meyers  
Kerri Sanborn, Sylvia Shi



#### 2<sup>nd</sup> **WIMPs (193.19)**

Amy Casanova (PC), Margi Peterson  
Christine Denny, Fran White  
Laura Rowe



#### 3<sup>rd</sup> **Hungary (190.58)**

Villo Szucs, Esther Tichy  
Hanka Lajos, Orsolya  
Hegedus (PC), Julia Hegedus,  
Agnes Zalai, Brigitta Fischer

# Newsletter Analysis with Mark Horton

## WBF Chief Editor

## Regular contributor



### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lund	Ferrari	Laszlo	Ugarte
—	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	6♣

### All Pass

Dealer North. None Vul.

♠A K 6 3 2	♠Q 9 7
♥K J	♥Q 7 6 5
♦Q 9 4	♦J 6
♣A 10 6	♣7 5 4 2
♠J 10 8 5	♠4
♥10	♥A 9 8 4 3 2
♦A 10 8 7 5 3 2	♦K
♣Q	♣K J 9 8 3

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Strasser	Renault	Heinze	Blaine
—	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	6♣

### All Pass

### MARK AND OLD MOVIES

It's no secret that I enjoy watching old movies. I couldn't resist paying homage to one of the all-time classics.

#### Play it Again Slam



Consistently voted one of the best films of all time, *Casablanca* features a scene where Humphrey Bogart's character Rick Blaine is seen studying a game of chess. Bogart was a keen player, which may explain why the scene is included in the movie. Imagine if he had been a bridge aficionado....

Rick Blaine's plan to deliver Letters of Transit to Ilsa Lund and Victor Laszlo had hit a snag thanks to the arrival of Major Heinrich Strasser and Colonel Heinze who were intent on arresting Victor. To buy some time Rick had suggested a short bridge match. When the last board arrived, it was clear that Rick's team needed a swing.

Hoping she might be able to give her partner a ruff Ilsa led the ♦A which collected the four, jack and king. Reflecting that the king might be a false card, she continued with the ♦5 only to see Victor follow with the six as declarer discarded a heart on dummy's queen. Having recently read an article in *The British Bridge World* about developing the side suit before drawing trumps, Signor Ugarte cashed dummy's ♥K and noted the appearance of West's ♥10. He continued with a heart to the ace, but Ilsa's ruff meant the contract was one down.

After an identical auction Major Strasser also tried the effect of starting with two rounds of diamonds and here too declarer's first move after winning with dummy's ♦Q was to cash the ♥K. When West followed with the ten Rick saw no harm in cashing dummy's ♣A and was pleased to see the queen appear. Only then did he continue with a heart to the ace. When West discarded a diamond Rick ruffed a heart, cashed dummy's top spades discarding a heart and could claim the last five tricks via a high-cross ruff.

That was enough to secure victory and the irate Major Strasser went over to the telephone, clearly intent on summoning troops to arrest Victor. Quick as a flash, a gun appeared in Rick's hand along with a warning to the Major. When he ignored it Rick shot him. As Captain Renault's men rushed into the room he calmly informed them, 'Major Strasser has been shot. Round up the usual suspects.' As Rick and Captain Renault left the café, Rick said, 'Louis, I think this is the beginning of a beautiful partnership.'

*Mark Horton*

# Articles from these four zones



At the end of last year, the female players at our club were thrilled when the Club President announced that "Ganesha Bridge Club" would participate in the 2024 WBFF Women's Teams Online tournament. Our players enthusiastically registered. Unfortunately, only 4 pairs could play, so the others could only watch and be cheering partners. Out of the 4 pairs chosen to form the team, some had international experience, but many were young players without such experience. This was a great opportunity for our players to compete and gain experience from world-class players, even if it was just virtually on a laptop screen. Preparation began. We were fortunate because the club immediately facilitated our training using RB. Many thanks to Abish Totton, the President of Ganesha Bridge Club, and also Pak Benn and Pakke Liak. We formed a fairly large team in addition to 4 players. There was an NPC and 4 supporting team members who helped with technical and non-technical aspects. The entire club management also fully supported us. [Click here for preparation and](#)



Top left to right: Mr. Liak, Mr. Benn, Ms. Yanyan (President), Mrs. Totton (Vice President), Mrs. Liak, Mrs. Benn, Mrs. Yanyan, Mrs. Totton, Mrs. Liak, Mrs. Benn, Mrs. Yanyan, Mrs. Totton. During the competition, all our players enjoyed participating in this tournament. The tournament system was very unique, where we always knew the schedule of 13 matches and all the opponents we would face. It was easy for us to prepare the team because the names and Convention Cards of the opponents were also available. Thumbs up for the organizing committee who prepared everything so well. It was an impressive experience. Being able to compete and directly communicate with opponents from 12 countries. The atmosphere of the competition was also very conducive, our players greatly enjoyed it, and spectators could easily watch and enjoy as well. Although we only ranked 17th, we must be grateful because we were able to compete with the other teams. It was a bit regrettable because some players faced challenges during the competition. There were players who fell ill, some had to suddenly leave town, and there were also those whose Internet at home went out, requiring them to move in order to continue competing. Finally, we would like to thank WBFF and RealBridge for organizing this nice tournament. We look forward to the next tournament. We greatly appreciate the help from the committee, especially from the RealBridge Team. Everything was assisted, including detailed understanding of RealBridge. We hope that next year this tournament will still be held, and of course, we hope that the management of our club will allow us to participate in the next WBFF Women's Online.

## WOMEN'S BRIDGE - LONG WAY TO GO



Asian Games October, 2023  
Long Way To Go

A focus for Asian bridge players, the 29<sup>th</sup> Hangzhou Asian Games Bridge competition has come to an end in Hangzhou, China, on Oct 6, 2023. In the Women's 1 team category, the Chinese team won the gold medal with 6.5 IMP leading. The Chinese Team team won the silver medal, while Hong Kong, China and Singapore won the bronze medals. A total of eight teams competed in the women's team category: China, Hong Kong, China, Chinese Taipei, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand and Korea. The inclusion of bridge in this grand competition in the Asian region is undoubtedly a shot in the arm for the bridge development of NACs, and it is also after this competition that we realize that the development of bridge still has a long way to go.

## Bridge is also a Sport

After the Chinese women's team won the Gold Medal, various Chinese media reported one after another. A golden news from Hangzhou Daily, the local media of the host city, went viral, but the first statement was the feeling that "bridge is also a sport". Bridge has been listed as an official sport in China for more than 40 years, and the Chinese women's bridge team has won the World Championships three times. There is even a National Women's Bridge Club league held annually in China with eight women clubs participate in the competition. At present, 17 teams participate in the women's team competition of this year's National Bridge Championships, just when we think bridge is thriving, we suddenly find out that very few people know bridge, and even



Aida, WBFF Women's Committee member writes of Women's Bridge in Zone 4



Women's bridge in Zone 4 (Bridge Federation of Asia and the Middle East B-AME) still lags behind most of the other zones.

- India
- Pakistan
- Korea
- United Arab Emirates
- Palestine

The women's teams of India and the United Arab Emirates qualified for the World Cup which took place in Marrakech, Morocco.

## roz bernstein



My late husband introduced me to bridge. It was my first teacher and I played a major part in our lives always! I attended my first international tournament in 1968 (1) as an observer and was totally overawed seeing... Sam Stayman, Fanny Blackwood, Omar Sharif!...

In latter years having more free time I became more serious about the game and have been in the South African Women's team five times. Playing International Bridge has brought me to a most lovely place. 2007 Mumbai and Shanghai, 2013 Reunion and Bali, 2017 Cape Town, 2020 and 2021 Online Johannesburg, Covid) 2023 Online Johannesburg qualifying for Marrakech!

Bridge is a wonderful interest... a game to be enjoyed at what ever level you choose.

There are efforts to increase women's participation in the game and here are what some countries in the zone are doing to achieve that:



- Enhance and increase bridge learning courses in clubs with the limited bridge federation offering a learning course in 2023 with a total of 70 new bridge players, more than half of them being...
- Organizing tournaments that include the Jordan International Bridge tournament, Jordan Teams Cup and sponsored tournaments and encourage women's participation by allocating prize for best women's pairs and best women's teams in these events.
- Training the national team and preparing them for zone and international competitions.



- Efforts to increase women's bridge by targeting colleges and universities.
- Scholarships for women to learn bridge.
- Organizing outside bridge games for women.



- There is the All India Ladies Bridge Association (AILBA) that run regular tournaments to encourage women's participation. The AILBA organizes a once a month three in a row online India Women's game that have space called "let us play".
- As for the Bridge Federation of India (BFI), in the last few years, special women's only events have been introduced and organized including two National pairs events and two others organized by private societies.

Efforts are currently being made to increase the number of women's teams from four countries in the zone.

Bahrain has expressed interest in forming a national women's team.

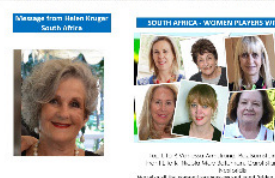


Roz Bernstein writes: I returned from Marrakech with a combined feeling of admiration, a tinge of jealousy and a great sense of enjoyment.

My highest admiration of the impeccable organization with intricate attention to detail. The entire tournament ecosystem operated, full tilt, seamless running of an experienced theatre production. The efficient punctuality and adherence to the rules ensured what appeared to the participants as a flawless event.

My tinge of jealousy was to see so many younger players representing their countries. At home, despite so many efforts, we are at least a generation behind producing the future generation of bridge champions. The confidence and energy of youth always adds a refreshing contrast to our aging South African bridge population.

The bridge itself produced moments of great jubilation only unfortunately to be followed by despair. Proving again that bridge is a humbling game and showing the great ability of players, who



## writes



The WBFF women's team event was a rare opportunity to participate in an international event from the confines and comfort of one's home, having taken up bridge since Covid. I looked forward to this three-day event with anticipation. This was an opportunity to virtually interact with women from literally all corners of the world.

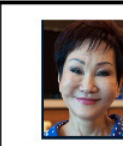
As a team, we met people from many different cultures. We played through language barriers as we adapted with unknown styles, systems and level of play. The organizers had made sure that convention cards of all the participants were available at the touch of a button - a great help when we couldn't communicate. We fangled over Kevin Sandhu, Jill Meyers and Cindy Golditz to name a few, who had their own Wikipedia pages! Bridge is that unique sport that allows relative newcomers to play against the best of the world. In India, we have a saying, "Vasudha Kutumbakam," which means, "The World is One Family." This tournament really embodied this saying.



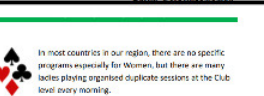
Top 10 of WBFF Women's Teams Online tournament. From left to right: Ritha Thiruvalluvar, Uma Jayashree, Bindya Kozil, Roshni Lyal, Anshu Chahal, Sushama Gupta, Priya Balasubramanian.

We really hope the organizers continue to make this a recurring event. As human beings we are greedy. Once we have a taste of something good, we want more of it. While the scheduling maybe initially complex, it would be great if there could be a round robin of the top eight or twelve teams. It will, to a large extent, mitigate the chance factor involved in having each team meet thirteen other random teams, without any seeding factored in.

Events such as this are great opportunities to further interest in women's bridge and also provide players with role models to emulate and be inspired by. Finally, for a game that only requires a pack of cards, tournament bridge is an expensive business when you factor in travel and hotel costs. This tournament was a platform for serious bridge, while being very pocket friendly. As we say in India, this event was full "Paas Vasool" (money well spent).



Khawaja Chahira (Bahrain) Singaporean, from Bangladesh. Khawaja is currently Chair of the WBFF Women's Committee. She was a member of WBFF Executive Council in 2017. Khawaja was bestowed the title "Khawaja" by the Ministry of the King of Bahrain. She was also a member of the Asian Pacific International Achievement Award (APIAA) in 2022. She was a director of the RealBridge from 2020 to 2026. Khawaja was awarded Honorary Doctor of Arts (HDA) University of Chittagong and Honorary Doctor of Philosophy (HDP) Korea National University of Education.



In most countries in our region, there are no specific programs especially for Women, but there are many ladies playing organized duplicate sessions at the Club level every morning.

Bridge has been included in the Southeast Asian Games (SEA Games) (Zone 6) which occurs every two hours under the Olympic banner. At the Asian games (Zones 4 and 6) in Hangzhou which concluded on October 7, 2023, Bridge was one of the most competitive sports where players were athletes officially, representing their respective countries and had to abide by each country's rules and regulations. There were three categories - Men 11 teams, Women - 8 teams and 11 teams. Sadly no pairs events due to budget and time allocations by the Organizers.

The Teams were ranked by their respective countries and mostly were considered on their ability to win medals. So, the number of women's teams may not reflect the number of players available but rather the decision of their own Asian Games Olympic Committee in their own country. There is also the fact that, the Mixed Teams category had reduced the number of top women players available for the Women's category.

Congratulations to: Women - Gold to China, Silver to China Taipei, Bronze to Hong Kong, China and Singapore.

Mixed - Gold to Chinese Taipei, Silver to China, Bronze to Thailand and Singapore.

The introduction of the Mixed Teams category in nearly all Championships, now could be considered to promote Women's Bridge and raise the level of Women's Bridge.

Best wishes, Estlin C. Subramanian, Chair WBFF Women's Committee

# Women's Online World Bridge Club



- Managed by WBF Communications Manager Anna Gudge
- A tool to Inform women about Online events

# Future Plans

- Annual WBF Online Women's Teams – RealBridge
- A Virtual “ Venice Cup” – RealBridge
- WBF Women's Festival BBO - Spring and Summer
- A New BBO Initiative of FREE DAILY Women's Pairs and Women's Online Club Daylong
- Further editions of WBF Women's Newsletters
- Work with women representatives in each zone for further planning.

# WBF Women's Committee



## Top:

Aaida Abu-Jaber, Esther Sophonapanich, Wang Yannan,

## Middle:

Anna Gudge, Suzi Subeck (Chair)

## Bottom:

Sevinc Atay, Helen Kruger, Mary Kelly Rogers (Deputy Chair)



# WBF Women's Committee

## GOALS

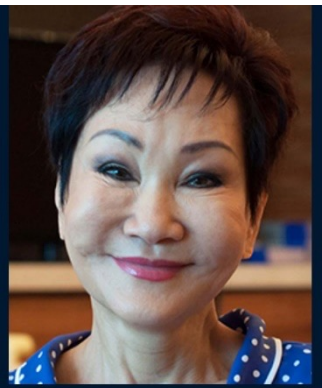
- General: To **GROW** Women in Bridge, in numbers and skills
- To put a **FRAMEWORK** in place, in order to bring about
- A **REVOLUTION in Communication** (for 30 countries)
- Thereby Encourage women to **PARTICIPATE** (in Live and Virtual Events}
- A back – up **PLANNING** Strategy of **Women's Events**



**Aida Abu-Jaber 4**



**Wang Yannan 6**



**Esther Sophonapanich 6**

**Helen Kruger 8**





# WBF NBO Officers' Seminar 2024

## Discussion:

1. Do you see merit in the appointment of a Women's Bridge Coordinator (WBC) in each NBO, and to having a Women's Committee in each Zone?
2. Worldwide, many emails are left unopened, or are left unacknowledged. Why? And how does this impact Bridge communication and administration?
3. Developing the Framework:  
Which of the four Building Blocks do you consider most important and why?

Composed and Presented by

Mary Kelly Rogers

Deputy Chair

WBF Women's Committee