Greetings from Dublin

Mary Kelly Rogers
WBF Women's Committee

To Officers and Delegates in Bangkok
Women’s Bridge

A Way forward
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Asia Pacific 11

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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

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Framework

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Framework

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\]
| 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

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<td>1. Women’s Bridge Coordinator, appointed in each NBO</td>
<td>2. A Database of women bridge players in each NBO</td>
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<td>3. A WBC informs, encourages develops and networks</td>
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### Building Block No. 4

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<th>4. Form a Zonal Women’s Committee to oversee</th>
<th>3. A WBC informs, encourages develops and networks</th>
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<td>1. Women’s Bridge Coordinator, appointed in each NBO</td>
<td>2. A Database of women bridge players in each NBO</td>
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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
“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 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 . . .
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”.

Priya Balasubramanian (India)
• **WBF Women’s Festival BBO - Spring Event**

Last month was 28\textsuperscript{th} 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
SPECIAL EDITION FOR VENICE CUP 2023
46th 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

WBF WOMEN'S BRIDGE NEWSLETTER
MARCH 2023
Editor: Mary Kelly Rogers
SEABASS USA WINS INAUGURAL WBF ONLINE WOMEN’S TEAMS 2023
Top Left to Right: Susan Zhang (PC), Jill Myers Bottom Left to Right: Kerri Sanborn, Sylvia Shi
64 teams from 31 countries competed for the title on RealBridge
• Newsletter
  Congratulations!

• Virtual Podium

• Winner Jill Meyers
  - appointed to IBPA Bulletin
  - to write on Women’s events

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Mark Horton

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

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When the last card had been played

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

1st Seabass (209.65)
  Susan Zhang (PC), Jill Meyers
  Kerri Sanborn, Sylvia Shi

2nd WIMPs (193.19)
  Amy Casanova (PC), Margi Peterson
  Christine Denny, Fran White
  Laura Rowe

3rd Hungary (190.58)
  Villo Szucs, Esther Tichy
  Hanka Lajos, Orsolya Hegedus (PC), Julia Hegedus,
  Agnes Zalai, Brigitta Fischer
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 Ilse Lund and Victor Laszlo had hit a snag thanks to the arrival of Major Heinrich Strasser and Colonel Heinz 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 Ilse 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 Ilse’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.’

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Mark Horton
Articles from these four zones
• 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**
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