



# 3rd WBF Online Women's Teams

Daily Bulletin N. 1

Friday, 27 March 2026

Mark Horton Editor ● Francesca Canali Layout Editor

## WELCOME!



Dear Players,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 3rd WBF Online Women's Teams.

This event unites players from 41 different countries and five continents, and that alone says everything about the power of online bridge: the ability to transcend distances and differences, offering a high-level international experience in the true spirit of friendship and competition.

Behind this championship is a team of outstanding women. I would like to personally thank Suzi Subeck, Chair of the Women's Committee, and Mary Kelly-Rogers, Vice Chair, committed around the clock with so much energy and focus, and members Aaida Abu Jaber, Sevinç Atay, Patricia Herrera, Helen Krüger, Esther Sophonpanich and Wang Yannan, for their great work. The committee puts meticulous attention to every detail, from the bridge side to the legal matters, to ensure an experience that is positive, technical, safe and enjoyable for all players.

Later this year, we will be gathering in person in Katowice (Poland) for the World Bridge Series (20 August - 3 September 2026), hosted in an extraordinary venue. Eight World Championships are scheduled, covering Teams and Pairs in the Open, Women's, Senior and Mixed categories. It will be a wonderful opportunity to meet face to face, and indeed this is at the heart of what the WBF believes in: connecting the world through bridge, embracing the potential of online play as a lever to grow our sport and our opportunities to meet in person. That is why the prizes for this event are designed to bring online players to the real table, with free entry to the McConnell Cup (World Women's Teams Championship) for the winners, and a 50% discount on entry for the second placed team.

I wish all players a wonderful three days of competition. Enjoy every board!

To those joining a WBF event for the first time: welcome to our international family.

Warm regards,

Franck Riehm  
President, World Bridge Federation



WBF President Franck Riehm has set the scene for our 3<sup>rd</sup> WBF Online Women's teams with his words of welcome and encouragement to 'our international family'.

In memory of the late WBF President Jan Kamras, I wish to pay tribute to him for his support of Women's Bridge. Jan passed away shortly after our second event in January 2025. Amongst other things, he answered our call for an Online championship when the world was emerging from Covid but not quite ready. As we can see other categories have followed but we were the first.

The inaugural event featured national teams and was managed by a small team: Anna Gudge (now Newton) WBF Communications Manager, Fotis Skoularikis, technical expert, Marc de Pauw and Dirk de Clercq WBF Accounts, Marc van Beijsterveldt, Chief TD and the amazing RealBridge team of Shireen Mohandes and Andy Bowles who 'magically' scheduled 64 teams from eight WBF zones and many time zones, all in a weekend. It has often been said, 'Wow, how was that done!' Their vision was and is at the forefront of online achievements.

Our second event showed progress with a microsite in place, ten more teams, 74 in all and it was transnational. Mark Horton, Chief WBF Editor joined us along with Francesca Canali introducing Bulletins, again a first for online bringing our event as close to face-to-face as possible.

This time, our third event, shows further progress. A user friendly and colourful microsite is in place to the credit of Fotis and Francesca, submitting of System cards has been made easier and a Safeguarding Policy is in place. (Please familiarise yourself with it on the microsite).

Marc van Beijsterveldt who had been our Chief Tournament Director has been appointed WBF/EBL Online Manager bringing his expertise a step further and to our great benefit. Francesca Canali has also joined the team bringing her many talents in microsite design and communication.

However, It is you the players that make this event. Your enthusiasm and goodwill have made it a success even before it begins. Enjoy the bulletins which will be on our microsite. Thank you for playing. Thank you for being part of President Riehm's international family.

Mary Kelly Rogers  
Vice Chair WBF Women's Committee  
Event Co-ordinator

# USEFUL LINKS

## WBF SITE



EVENTS WEBSITE



SYSTEM CARDS

## REALBRIDGE



INFORMATION



TEAM ROSTERS



JOINING REALBRIDGE



MATCHES



RANKING LISTS



# THE 32<sup>nd</sup> WBF WOMEN'S ONLINE BRIDGE FESTIVAL

Spring 2026

April 13–19, 2026



Win a free entry the Women's Pairs Championship at the WBF World Bridge Series 2026 in Katowice, plus lots of points and other prizes.



Play at [bridgebase.com](https://bridgebase.com)

# WHAT'S IN A NAME

Mark Horton

When I sit down to draft an article, the toughest part can be selecting a title. By the same token, deciding on the name of your team might give you pause for thought. In this third edition of the World Bridge Federations Online Women's Teams we have 66 teams, involving nearly 400 players from 41 countries.

Looking at the list of entries it was clear that many squads were happy to choose a name that reflected where they were from geographically. (As an aside, I recall a question in a geography exam at school in which we were given a map of Great Britain with several blue lines on it. We were asked to identify them and with the innocence of youth I wrote down 'rivers.')

Examining entries, the first name to catch my eye was Aberdeen Angus. Sure enough the players hail from Scotland, as do *Caledonia*. *Bosphorus Bridge* was an obvious connection to Türkiye, while Dante Istanbul was a slightly less subtle way of indicating the same location. (Fans of Dan Brown's professor Robert Langdon will recall that the film of the book *Inferno* has its climax in Istanbul.)

Opera fans will work out the location of the players in *Carmen*, and *Shamrocks 2026* should not be too testing. *Kiwis and Kiwi Ferns* offer substantial clues, as does *Viking Queens*.

You could be forgiven for thinking *Swimming Dragons* has an oriental connection, but you might be on safer ground with *Vistula Bridge Ladies*.

Working out where the *Amber Queens* are located is tough unless you happen to know where roughly 90% of the world's extractable amber can be found.

Names like *Chocolate and Lokum* offer a clue where players from two countries have formed an alliance.

My favourite is *Spiel Ohne Grenzen* which offers a strong clue as to the location of the players and translates to 'games without borders' (well known as the television show *Jeux sans Frontieres* which ran from 1965 to 1999). That perfectly reflects the nature of this event, which allows bridge players from around the world to come together.

## KEEP US IN THE PICTURE

If something interesting happens in one of your matches drop me a line – markhorton007@hotmail.com – with luck everyone will then be able to read all about it!