

## W B F President Rona's farewell speech

Mr. Dahlan Iskan, Chairman of the Indonesian Bridge Federation, Mr. Michael Bambang Hartono, Mr. José Damiani, President Emeritus of the World Bridge Federation, Mr. Ernesto d'Orsi, Past President of the World Bridge Federation, Authorities, dear colleagues of the WBF, distinguish guests, dear friends,

We come to the end of the 41st World Bridge Teams Championship and the 9th World Transnational Open Teams Championship and, once again and even more than in the past, I am proud and delighted to say, that this event has proved to be so successful, even more successful than we dared hope or expect.

This marvellous land, this marvellous people welcomed and hosted us in such a superb way that it seems to me superfluous to say that we will have an unforgettable memory of them and of this wonderful experience.

Thank you Indonesia, thank you Bali!

The Indonesian Bridge Federation, under the leadership of its Chairman, Dahlan Iskan and the Organising Committee, led by Toto Syafruddin, have done an extraordinary job in organizing this event, which under the coordination of the WBF Championship Committee, chaired by Ernesto D'Orsi, has gone very smoothly from all points of view. I am very pleased to award the Chairman of the Indonesian Bridge Federation with the WBF Gold Medal.

We must, of course, thank the sponsors for their support to the Championship. We owe a huge debt of thanks to our great friend Mr Michael Bambang Hartono, who with his generosity allowed us to create such a great event.

I want to dedicate a special mention and to express our gratitude to the On Site Organizer, Arnold Laseduw, who did an amazing job and I would like him to know just how much we appreciate his efficiency, professionalism and dedication. I am very pleased to award Arnold with the WBF Silver Medal.

But above all I would like to thank the entire staff operators, Indonesian and coming from all over the world and working harmoniously together before and during the these Championships, enabling its great success.

First of all I would like to thank all the Indonesian volunteers. You have done a truly wonderful job and made our stay here in Nusa Dua most memorable.

I will now call on the various departments of these Championships to please stand so that we can applaud them.

The Championship Management chaired by Ernesto D'Orsi, with Marc De Pauw, Maurizio Di Sacco, Jean-Claude Beineix and Armand Trippaers; the Appeals Committee headed by John Wignall, and made up of Ton Kooijman, Jean-Paul-Meyer, Jeffrey Polisner, Barry Rigal, Brian Senior, P.O. Sundelin and Herman De Wael; the Disciplinary Commission, headed by Georgia Heth with David Harris and Mazhar Jafri.

The Tournament Directors who have worked unstintingly headed by Max Bavin ably assisted by Antonio Riccardi, Matt Smith, Bertrand Gignoux, Jeanne van den Meiracker, Bernardo Biondo, Anthony Ching, Pierre Collaros, Laurie Kelso, Slawek Latala, Sean Mullamphy, Magdy Mesdary, Ihsan Qadir, Arnold Laseduw, John Tumewu, Chen Xiangyang and Zhang Xin.

The Secretariat ran smoothly with Marina Madia, Carol von Linstow, and Dirk De Clercq. For the Protocol and Ceremony, our thanks go to Anna Maria Torlontano, Sevinç Atay, Tetty Sianipar Petricola, Rose de Graaf and Salvina Rosi.

The Communications section was run by Anna Gudge with the help of Christina Lund Madsen, Mario Chavarria Kaifman, Simon Fellus and Fernando Lema.

Bridgerama was, as usual, very well done by Jean-Paul Meyer, Barry Rigal, David Stern, Ishmael Del'Monte, P.O. Sundelin, with Chicco Battistone who were responsible for the technical side with Francesca Canali, Margherita Chavarria Kaifman, Eria Franco and Fabio Lo Presti,

The Hospitality & Registration made a superb job of a very difficult task and our sincere appreciation goes to Silvia Valentini, ably assisted by Odile Beineix, Gildana Caputo, Peter De Pauw, Branka Grguric, Beverly Levy, Linda Sitompul, Anna Helena and Andreas Laba.

The Medical and Anti Doping Committee of Paolo Walter Gabriele, Giovanni Capelli and Jaap Stomphorst.

The Main Office and Caddies were overseen by Gianni Bertotto and Gianluca Barrese.

The Press Room was as usual very well run by Jan Swaan while Patrick Jourdain, John Carruthers and Jan van Cleeff were responsible for IBPA.

The Daily Bulletin was co-ordinated by Jean-Paul Meyer with Brent Manley as Editor ably supported by Mark Horton, Jos Jacobs, Micke Melander, Brian Senior, Ron Tacchi as Layout Editor and Elisabeth van Ettinger the photographer.

The duplication team, responsible for duplicating no less than 50,000 boards was led by Monica Gorreri with Franco Crosta, Hélène Vivier, Sabri, Supri and Iqbal.

The Computer Championship was very efficiently run by Alvin Levy.

Gianni Baldi coordinated the Technological Services with Duccio Geronimi, Hugo Trippaers and Vicky Ferdinand Setiawan responsible for the IT Systems. Scoring was done by Fotis Skoularikis, with Dimitri Ballas as Scoring Manager assisted by Manolo Eminent. Traian Chira coordinated the BBO Key-board Operators. Ourgame was operated by Lin Zhenpeng and Kan Baloei

The extremely efficient Transport was organized by Ali Ridho with Rigga Prajutha.

Our sincere thanks go to the Nusa Dua Convention Centre, its Director of Operations, Wayan Sutapa and its personnel for very kindly welcoming and hosting us.

Finally, dear friends, on behalf of the WBF and personally I would like to express to all of you, the players, my warmest appreciation. You guaranteed the success of this event and I am really pleased to thank and congratulate you.