



**EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE**  
YOUTH COMMITTEE

Panos GERONTOPOULOS  
*Chairman*

To all European NBOs

24 March 2004

Dear Mr President,

**Support for Junior players to participate in the**  
**1<sup>st</sup> World Junior Individual Championship & 6<sup>th</sup> World Junior Camp**  
**New York, NY, USA • 14-24 July 2004**

A few weeks ago I had the pleasure of sending you detailed information on the 2004 World Junior events, scheduled to take place in New York. These are the inaugural **World Junior Individual Championship** (14-16 July) and the **World Junior Camp** (17-24 July)\*.

As a world leader in Junior bridge, and since it constitutes more than half of the *World Bridge Federation*, Europe has a major interest in the development of our sport among young people. For this reason, the EBL has been running a successful youth programme for some 35 years now, and has served as the main moving force of the world youth programme.

Our main partner in this effort is North America, who have been participating in Junior events held in Europe for nearly a decade. Now, the time has come to balance the situation, and the WBF has announced that the **World Junior Pairs & Camp** organized in Europe biennially will be implemented by the **World Junior Individual & Camp** organized in North America in the years in between.

I would like to stress that these events are open to *all* young players, not just the top ones. We are very glad that *all* Juniors enjoy these massive events, with the champion players mixing up and helping the weaker ones. This is the sociality of bridge at its best!

People cannot be ... fully 'bridged' if they stay far away from each other. But travelling surely costs, and the Juniors, having yet to start their careers, can hardly make it without our support. In my previous letter on the subject, I appealed to your understanding and asked you to consider a number of ways that could enable you to provide your Juniors with reasonable support to participate in the 2004 world events.

In the same letter, I mentioned that the President of the *World Bridge Federation* Mr José Damiani has made available sponsor funds to help some Juniors, especially those from countries where raising local support for young players is very difficult. Other criteria include participation in both events (Individual and Camp), the age of the participant (younger rather than older Juniors), his/her involvement in and contribution to Junior bridge, etc. Juniors taking part in the *1<sup>st</sup> World Schools Team Championship*, due to be played immediately before the World Individual Championship, will not be considered to be subsidized, as they will already be in New York.

We invite you to send your applications to the EBL Youth Committee by email to the address <[youthcmte@bridge.gr](mailto:youthcmte@bridge.gr)> no later than **25 April 2004**. Please submit:


- A. The full name of the applicant Junior (born in 1979 or later)
- B. His/her NBO membership code (number)
- C. His/her full date of birth
- D. Confirmation that the applicant will take part in both events (Individual & Camp)
- E. Arguments in support of application.

All applications will be acknowledged upon receipt, and we will be able to advise you on the situation by 30 April 2004.

As we keep receiving enquiries directly from interested Juniors, we are advising all Juniors to contact their NBO, so that the application can be handled through you at this stage. In any case, it goes without saying that only serious applications should be forwarded. Juniors who are not certain about their plans should be willing to withdraw, as it would not be at all appropriate to deprive some Juniors from participating just because some people changed their minds when it was too late for others to step in.

Once again, dear colleagues, I am confident that with our constructive cooperation we will be able to offer a wonderful opportunity to our Juniors, to the great benefit of bridge and their own. For this reason, I would like to thank you once again for your support and I am looking forward to hearing from you soon.

With very best wishes,



**Panos Gerontopoulos**  
EBL Youth Cmte Chmn

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\* If you have not received the material, please let us know by email to the address <[youthcmte@bridge.gr](mailto:youthcmte@bridge.gr)> or visit the official web site within <[www.worldbridge.org](http://www.worldbridge.org)>.