

HONG KONG CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION LIMITED

Report of the President

Unfortunately the pandemic is still with all of us, hence its only towards second half of this year, the Association held limited activities, but we are still far away from conducting tournament regularly. Similarly, almost all international and regional tournament were cancelled, this includes originally schedule 2021 APBF in Hong Kong, as well as Guangzhou/Hong Kong/Macau interport.

The only good news recently is that the free travel between Guangzhou/Hong Kong/Macau which will take place (for a start very limited number persons per day) late December 2021, and it is predicted to be in much larger scale starting late February 2022 (probably after the Winter Olympic). This at least give us some hope that perhaps we can resume Guangzhou/Hong Kong/Macau in 2022. The more exciting news is the forthcoming Asian Game, which will be held in August/September 2022 in Hangzhou (杭州), Bridge is again on of the list, with three medals to be competed, namely Men, Ladies, Mixed Teams. The trial for selection of Hong Kong team had been concluded and we are trying to organise a structural training programme, let's wish our players can perform their best and bring back honour to Hong Kong as last time in Jakarta.

By the same token, I will expect to see more of our members taking part in National tournaments in Mainland China, this at least give all of us some breathing space in terms of resuming of regular competition we all long for.

Having said that, it is extremely doubtful that international or regional face to face competition can be resumed in the near future. The WBF had indicated the next Bermuda will be held in Italy in early 2022, as such APBF has to organise the selection trial on line, which is going to take place during December 22 – December 28, but even if this is successfully conducted, personally I have serious doubt as to organise the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup/Senior Team physically, as the pandemic in Europe shows no sign of retreating, on the contrary, it appears getting worse, and it makes one wonder who dared to go to for a tournament in Europe (with the exception perhaps of the European?) So at best the 2022 Bermuda will be held on line but I also have strong reservation to such arrangement. We will soon find out when the time comes.

Inevitably this pandemic is disrupting a lot of yearly plan and routines for all of us, since any prediction of future is futile, so I believe the best way is to react fast to the everchanging external environment and find every opportunity to resume our regular tournaments.

I will keep you all informed of any major change in future, in the meantime, please all take good care of yourself and your family. Let's all hope this pandemic will soon be under proper control all over across the world

Zen Wei Peu Derek
President