

After an exciting Patton Tournament on Sunday the White House Junior Internationals 2019 kicked off on Monday. Below the opening speech by Fernando Lema.

Dear friends,

The Bridge meeting at the White House Jr. Invitational, year after year, is always a source of great joy. Along with the sports competition, a spirit of friendship and camaraderie always stands out, which is a characteristic that distinguishes this event from similar ones.

I want to welcome everyone. I hope you have a really enjoyable and great championship.

I have a special word for all the young people who are here to compete representing their respective countries:

The future of the Bridge depends on you.

You who participate have already discovered the passion for Bridge. Now we have to organize ourselves to transmit that passion to more and more young people. Leaders can do a lot - and they have an obligation to do it - but you are more skilled and are better able to convince your friends, and the friends of your friends.

We need your help: we have to always work together because, in the end, our goal is the same.

That's why I'm going to ask everyone for a favor: Flood the networks! Upload Instagram Stories, Photos in Instagram and Facebook, Tweet on your Twitter feed ... about the event every day, every moment, show the universe how well you are doing and show them the people you are meeting from all over the world. Tell them about the fun you are having, the challenges you are facing. Let the world know what is happening here. Let them know that Bridge also stands for peace and unity between people from all walks of life.

I wish you all the best and success in the championship and I thank everyone for the prestige of this event, which is already guaranteed by a record number of participants.

Fernando Lema