

Dear Renju Friends.

It is a big honour for me to be elected as the president for the Renju International Federation.

Looking back at my predecessor, Tommy Maltell's 12 years as President, a lot of things have happened. In that time it was three member countries and we did not know what we could expect from the future.

RIF made international rules and established the World Championship, European Championship, Youth Championship (World and European), Women Championship and Team World Championship. An international rating list was created. Even computer programs have their own championship.

The Internet revolution made a championship by mail much easier and quicker. Ten years ago we had to wait for ordinary letters, which was quite frustrating many times.

The Renju Newsletter is very much appreciated by many players all over the world.

Globally, the world of Renju is bigger now. The latest years, our game has gained popularity in some Asian countries. The level of playing has reached to a higher level.

Personally, I have some visions for the future. Of course it is desirable to get more member countries, especially in those areas that still are "white spots" on the renju map. But we must not forget to work for that renju activities continue in the countries where Renju already exists.

In order to become more professional we must see that some things happen. I mean for example qualification for referees. We must have an open mind about the opening rules, but also pay respect to the tradition. More books about Renju must be written and published.

The work of the official commissions must be better. I think that the way of slow progress is better here because everyone of us work voluntarily.

Finally, I want to thank the former President, Tommy Maltell for his work during the first 12 years of RIF.

Peter Jonsson  
President of RIF