

President:
Mr Fearghal O'Boyle

Vice President:
Ms Anne Hassan

The Irish Bridge Union

INTER-COUNTY TEAMS Burke Trophy & O'Connor Trophy



The All-Ireland finals of the Inter-county teams will take place in Westgrove Hotel, Clane, Co Kildare on Saturday, 24th February, 2017 at 1.30 p.m. and Sunday, 25th February, 2017 at 11.00 a.m.

ENTRY FEE in the Final is €100 / £80 per team

1. The Burke Trophy is open to all affiliated players of the C.B.A.I. and the N.I.B.U. Teams may consist of 4, 5 or 6 players. All players on a team representing a County/City must either be members of an affiliated club (not necessarily the same club) in that County/City or be a native by birth or be normally domiciled, in that county or city. County and city boundaries are as per boundaries of local authorities.
2. The O'Connor Trophy is open to all affiliated players of the C.B.A.I. and the N.I.B.U. holding **less than 10 National Points**. Teams may consist of 4, 5 or 6 players. All players on a team representing a County/City must either be members of an affiliated club in that County/City (not necessarily the same club) or be a native by birth or be normally domiciled, in that county or city. County and city boundaries are as per boundaries of local authorities.
3. Teams with an original entry of 4 players may substitute one player of their team to play in the All- Ireland final. The substitute must be a member of an affiliated club or be a native by birth or be normally domiciled, in that county or city. The substitute must **NOT** have played for any other team in the qualifying round of that county or city.
4. The two events will be run separately at the same venue. Cash Prizes will be given to prizewinners in both events.
5. Highly Unusual Methods (HUM) and Brown Sticker Conventions (BSC) are not allowed at any stage.
6. The winners of the Burke Trophy have automatic entry into the following year's All-Ireland final. The winners of the O'Connor Trophy have automatic entry to the O'Connor Trophy (if the team is still eligible) or if not to the Burke Trophy in the following year.

Qualification

1. Each county / city should hold a qualifying competition (one or two sessions). A county may choose to send up to two teams to play in each of the two All-Ireland Finals. The qualifying fee is €40 / £30 per team.
2. All teams in a qualifying round are deemed to be qualifying for either the Burke Trophy or the O'Connor Trophy in that county or city, unless they declare otherwise to the T.D. or tournament organizer, prior to the commencement of play in that qualifying round.

Joint Hon. Secretaries:-

C.B.A.I. Martin Brady, Apartment 16, 29 James Walk, Rialto, Dublin D08T9C6
N.I.B.U. Harold Curran, 28 Laganvale Manor, Stranmillis, Belfast BT9 5BE.
Hon. Treasurer: Anne Fitzpatrick, 104 Back Road, Drumbo, Lisburn BT275LB

tel: 085 844 7755
tel: (0044) 7718392819
tel: 07712877606

email: martin.brady@ucd.ie
email: haroldcurran@hotmail.com
e-mail: annefitzpatrick@bakertillymm.co.uk

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3. Adjacent counties, or a county and its city, may combine to hold a qualifying round. Any team which is entitled to represent both adjacent counties or represent both the county and its city **MUST** declare to the T.D. or tournament organizer which county or city they are qualifying for, prior to the commencement of play in that qualifying round.

4. The format of the qualifying round is decided by the T.D. The TD may run two competitions, one for those team qualifying for the Burke Trophy and one for those qualifying for the O'Connor Trophy. Alternatively, the TD may run one competition with the best placed teams in each category qualifying for the All-Ireland Final.

5. Player(s) who do not qualify in one county or city may seek qualification for another county or city, provided they are either a member(s) of an affiliated club in that county/city or a native by birth or are normally domiciled in that county/city.

6. Teams **MUST** take up their first qualification.

7. Each County Development Officer will be responsible for their county & city qualifying rounds and should send a list of all teams qualifying for each of the All-Ireland Finals with the qualifying fee of €40 for each team to either joint Hon. Secretary of the I.B.U, no later than 29th **January 2018**. Please make cheques payable to the 'Irish Bridge Union'.

8. Each county and each city is entitled to be represented in the All-Ireland final. If a county or city do not hold a qualifying round, then a team(s) from that county or city may be nominated by the County Development Officer to represent the said county. Such entries to either joint Hon. Secretary of the I.B.U. should be accompanied by the appropriate qualifying fee.

9. If a team has to withdraw from the All-Ireland final, then the next team in order of merit in the qualifying round for that county or city shall be invited to play in the All-Ireland final.

10. For the 2018 event, a County/City entering two Teams for the Burke Trophy and two Teams for the O'Connor Trophy will receive a rebate of €40 i.e. the County/City pays a qualifying fee of only €120 for the four teams.

Please contact either joint Hon. Secretary of the I.B.U. through your county or regional secretary, with any queries.

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tel: 085 844 7755
tel: (0044) 7718392819
tel: 07712877606

email: martin.brady@ucd.ie
email: haroldcurran@hotmail.com
e-mail: annefitzpatrick@bakertillymm.co.uk