

Contract Bridge Association of Ireland

Lady Milne & Camrose Trials Pre-Qualifying Competition 2023/24

The Lady Milne Trophy and the Camrose Trophy are home international competitions in which teams from England, Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland, Scotland and Wales compete against each other annually.

The Lady Milne Trophy is for women's teams only and the Camrose Trophy is an open competition.

The dates and venues for these events in the coming season are:

Lady Milne:	19-21 April 2024, in Ireland
Camrose:	Weekend 1: 5-7 January 2024, in Wales Weekend 2: 1-3 March 2024, in England

The CBAI International Committee (IC) will hold trials to select teams to represent the Republic of Ireland in these competitions. The minimum entry requirement (unless nominated by the CBAI Junior Committee or selection via pre-qualifying trials) is for entrants to hold 100+ National Points.

The dates and venues for these trials are:

Camrose trials:	27-30 October 2023, in Limerick
Lady Milne trials:	10-12 November 2023, in Templeogue

Prior to these trials, the IC is inviting players of a suitable standard, but who are otherwise unable to enter the main trials, to pre-qualify. This trials pre-qualifier will be held on **23-24 September, 2023** in Templeogue.

Entries

Entries are invited from pairs hoping to play in the trials for either the Lady Milne or the Camrose Trophies. A player may not enter these pre-qualifying trials if they are already entered into the Lady Milne or Camrose trials.

Entry is restricted to players with either

- 50+ National Points; or
- 25+ National Points won in the previous three bridge seasons

The closing date for receipt of entries is **11 August 2023** and entries, accompanied by an entry fee of €70 per person, **must** be submitted to CBAI National Headquarters on or before that date. The IC may, in exceptional circumstances, accept entries after the closing date.

Particulars of the trials format will be sent to entrants in a Supplementary Notice in the week following the closing date. The format below represents the IC's intended format, subject to entries. The entire event is dependent upon a minimum entry of 12 pairs.

Format

The pre-qualifier will be a three-session, IMP pairs, competition.

The two best placed women's pairs will be eligible to play as a team in the Lady Milne trials. If one or both pairs were placed in the top two, then they may elect to play in the Camrose trials instead and the next best women's pair(s) will qualify to play, as a team, in the Lady Milne trials. Once the Lady Milne qualifiers are known then the best placed two remaining pairs will qualify to play, as a team, in the Camrose trials. The qualifying pairs may if they wish add a third, suitably qualified, pair to make up a team of 6 for the subsequent trials.

If it transpires that, due to shortage of suitable entrants, only one pair is eligible to qualify for the Lady Milne trials then there will be no pre-qualifying team for that event.

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Players who qualify to play in the trials for either the Lady Milne or the Camrose will receive a credit equivalent to the entry fee of the pre-qualifier which can then be put towards their entry fee for the main trial.

Whereas the exact schedule and number of boards per round will be decided after the closing date when the number of pairs entered in the trials is known, it will involve a single or double round robin, with each pair playing a direct match over as many boards as possible against each of the other pairs.

Players will be awarded National Points for these trials (see www.cbai.ie for details), and the four qualifying pairs will also be offered coaching/development sessions, paid for by the CBAI, with a suitable expert player to review their performance in the trials for which they qualify.

Rules/Regulations re Substitutes and Systems for Pre-Qualifiers

Substitutes

Subject to the approval of the IC, a substitute may be allowed in emergency circumstances for a limited number of boards. A substitution which in the opinion of the IC significantly affects the competitiveness of a pair is unlikely to be approved. If a suitable substitute cannot be found for a match, the Tournament Director will award an adjusted score to the non-offending side in accordance with the EBU White Book. Requests for substitutes for what the IC considers to be convenience reasons will **not** be approved. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the TD is empowered to make emergency substitutions.

Systems

All players participating in this event must have submitted a copy of their system in electronic format to CBAI National Headquarters (info@cbai.ie) with their entry, so that their system may be uploaded to www.cbai.ie and is available to their opponents.

Both members of a partnership are restricted to a single system and both must play the same system and methods in bidding and play. Players may have a copy of their own system to hand during the event but may not refer to it during play.

The WBF Convention Card or equivalent must be used and may be downloaded at website below: <http://www.worldbridge.org/rules-regulations/competitions/wbf-system-card-editors/>. Failure to fulfil this obligation or presentation of a Convention Card that, in the opinion of the Tournament Director, is insufficiently detailed, will render each pair liable to an automatic penalty.

Highly Unusual Methods (HUMs) are not permitted. Brown Sticker Conventions (BSC) are permitted, subject to full disclosure. Up to three BSC may be used by a partnership, details of which must be submitted on the appropriate form (available from CBAI National Headquarters) when entering the respective trials. Failure to submit same in electronic format with the entry will result in these conventions being prohibited.

General

The IC is empowered to alter any of the arrangements or conditions including time and dates, and to decide on all matters affecting these trials. These trials are to send an international team to represent Ireland in the home internationals organized by Bridge Great Britain (BGB). Unless specifically noted otherwise by the IC, the regulations that apply to the trials will be those of BGB that apply to the home internationals. In the event of a conflict with general local CBAI regulations, BGB's will take precedence. The IC will follow any guidance in the EBU White Book for cases not covered by the other regulations.

Each player who enters these trials is agreeing to play in any national trials that they qualify for.

International Committee

Lucy Phelan (Convenor), Micheal O Briain, Derek O'Gorman, Hilary Dowling-Long, Martin Brady