

Contract Bridge Association of Ireland

Lady Milne Trophy 2024

The Lady Milne Trophy is the home international competition in which women's teams from England, Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland, Scotland and Wales compete against each other annually. The date and venue for the Lady Milne Trophy in the coming season are:

Lady Milne Weekend: 19-21 April, 2024, in Ireland

As the host nation for this event, Ireland will supply two teams. The CBAI International Committee (IC) will hold trials on **10-12 November 2023** to select teams to represent the Republic of Ireland and the CBAI in the Lady Milne Trophy. The venue is the **Bridge Centre in Templeogue**.

The winning team will be selected automatically to represent the Republic of Ireland. The runner-up team will be selected automatically to represent the CBAI. If either team is a team of four, then the IC will, in consultation with the team's members, select an additional pair, in order to make up a team of six. The additional pair must have played in the trials. If either team is a team of five, then the IC will, if the team requests it, consider selecting an additional player, in order to make up a team of six. The additional player must have played in the trials and be a regular partner of at least one of the winning team.

Entries

Entries are invited from teams of four, five or six players hoping to play for Ireland in the Lady Milne Trophy 2024. Each player entering the Lady Milne trials must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- have a minimum holding of one hundred (100) National Points at entry date; or
- have qualified via the pre-qualifying event held earlier in the year, such players being limited to a maximum of four pre-qualifiers, with the potential addition of another qualified pair, to make up one team; or
- be a Junior player nominated by the CBAI Junior Committee as being of sufficient standard to play in the Camrose trials, such nominations being limited to a maximum of four junior players.

The closing date for receipt of entries is Friday **29 September 2023** and entries, accompanied by the entrance fee of €400 per team **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. Given that two teams will qualify this season, the issue of a final playoff of the two leading teams will be kept under review.

Format

Qualifying Round

If, due to the number of teams entered, a qualifying round is needed, then trials will commence at 12 noon on the Friday afternoon. If there is time for all the teams to play each other, then a round-robin movement will be used; otherwise, it will be a Swiss movement with the first round seeded. The non-qualifiers will be invited to stay on to play in a three-session teams competition; this will take place only if there is sufficient interest. National Points will be awarded for this competition (see www.cbai.ie).

Semi-Finals

The two 48-board semi-finals will commence at 10:00 on the Saturday and will finish at 17:45.

Final

The 48-board final will commence at 10:00 on the Sunday and will finish at 17:45.

Rules/Regulations re Substitutes and Systems for Lady Milne Trials

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 these trials 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 in the Lady Milne trials.

Brown Sticker Conventions (BSC) are permitted in the Lady Milne trials, 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, dates and venue, and to decide on all matters affecting these trials.

These trials are to send two international teams 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 any 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 represent the Republic of Ireland or the CBAI if nominated and to abide fully with all the conditions of these trials.

International Committee

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