



THE IRISH BRIDGE UNION
INTERNATIONAL OPEN TRIALS 2024
EUROPEAN OPEN TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP
DENMARK June 24th – July 4th 2024

And Also

World Bridge Games Buenos Aires October 22nd to November 5th 2024

Supplementary Information & Important Dates for Trials

Dates & Venues

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Weekend 1 | 19 th – 21 st January 2024 (Templeogue Bridge Centre) |
| Weekend 2 | NOT REQUIRED as only 4 teams this year. |

Important Information :-

Please note the original schedule provided for a Semi-Final & Final over the first weekend if only four (4) teams entered. The International Committee (IC) are however, conscious of the opinions voiced by a number of players at the recent CBAI trials zoom meeting, where opinions were expressed to suggest a preference for Round Robin formats. Bearing this in mind the IC have prepared two options for the Open Trials weekend to be held on January 19th -21st 2024.

Option A :- as originally published 64 Board Semi Final & 80 board Final as detailed below:- 144 boards for those getting to the final. Those who lose in the Semi's are finished at lunchtime on Saturday.

Option B :- To play a triple Round Robin – 144 boards played in 3 x 16 board matches against each of the other teams. The schedule for start & finishing times would be the same as for the semi-final / finals. All teams would play for full weekend.

Which option will be used this year?

This is up to the Four (4) Team Captains as listed below to advise us as to which option they want.

If ALL four (4) Captains choose the Round Robin option then that is what we will be playing, however, if even one (1) Captain advises us that they want to stick with the original semi-final / final process then that is what we will be sticking with for this year. Please note the Captains have until 5.00pm on the 8th December to advise us of their decision. They can voice their opinion by e-mail to Diarmuid Reddan (Convenor) by 5pm Friday 8th December 2023. (diarmuid.reddan@gmail.com)

Entries have been received from 4 teams as listed below – (listed in Captain's Surname alphabetical order) Please note this doesn't represent the order of the teams for the schedule of play.

| Team | Captain | Player 1 | Player 2 | Player 3 | Player 4 | Player 5 | Player 6 |
|----------|-----------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| A | Grainne Barton | Mark Moran | John Carroll | Nick FitzGibbon | Adam Mesbur | Tom Hanlon | Conor Boland |
| B | Martin Brady | Martin Brady | David Dunne | Luca Crone | Matthew O'Farrell | | |
| C | Peter Goodman | Peter Goodman | Dan McIntosh | Kelan O'Connor | Gay Keaveney | Anna Onishuk | Karel de Raeymaeker |
| D | Peter Pigot | Peter Pigot | Derek O'Gorman | David Walsh | Ciaran Coyne | | |

SCHEDULE OF PLAY

OPTION A :- Semi-Final & Final

As previously advised with 4 teams the Schedule of Matches will be as follows :-

| Friday 19 th January | | Saturday 20 th January | | Sunday 21 st January | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Semi-Final Stanza 1 | 18.30 – 20.40 | Semi-Final Stanza 3 | 10.00-12.10 | Final Stanza 3 | 10.00-12.10 |
| Semi-Final Stanza 2 | 20.55 – 23.05 | Semi-Final Stanza 4 | 12.25-14.35 | Final Stanza 4 | 12.25-14.35 |
| | | Lunch | | Lunch | |
| | | Final Stanza 1 | 15.30-17.40 | Final Stanza 5 | 15:30-17.40 |
| | | Final Stanza 2 | 17.55-20.05 | | |

OPTION B :- Triple Round Robin

| Friday 19 th January | | Saturday 20 th January | | Sunday 21 st January | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| RR1 Match 1 | 18.30 – 20.40 | RR1 Match 3 | 10.00-12.10 | RR3 Match 7 | 10.00-12.10 |
| RR1 Match 2 | 20.55 – 23.05 | RR2 Match 4 | 12.25-14.35 | RR3 Match 8 | 12.25-14.35 |
| | | Lunch | | Lunch | |
| | | RR2 Match 5 | 15.30-17.40 | RR3 Match 9 | 15:30-17.40 |
| | | RR2 Match 6 | 17.55-20.05 | | |

1. **Additional Pairs :-** If a team of four (4) wishes to add another pair, prior to the first weekend they can do so with the approval of the IC. Teams can also add a pair after the semi-final from those who played in the trials.
2. If a team wishes to change a team member, prior to the first weekend they can do so with the approval of the IC.
3. The winning team will be selected as the Irish Open Team to represent Ireland in Denmark June 24th – July 4th 2024 at the European Open Team Championships and also the World Bridge Games in Buenos Aires October 22nd to November 5th 2024.
Please note if a team of four (4) win, a third pair who have played in the trials will be added to the team. The pair will be selected by the team in conjunction with the IC. The Team Captain will also be chosen by the team in conjunction with the IC.
4. **Substitutes** will only be allowed on teams of four (4) and at the discretion of the IC and in extreme emergencies only. The substitution will not be approved if in the opinion of the IC the team would be strengthened by the substitution. If a team is unable to provide a suitable substitute the Tournament Director will award a score of 12/0 VP, or the non-offending team's own average VP or the average VPs conceded by the offending team whichever is greater, in favour of the non-offending team. In addition to the above, the Tournament Director is empowered to make emergency substitutions. No player may use a substitute for more than 32 boards in the trials. Please note no substitute may play in more than one team.

Players cannot be changed during a stanza, unless there is a medical emergency, and only with the approval of the TD.

5. Each pair participating in the trials must have two copies of their system available to present to their opponents before a session of play begins. Cards must be in the correct format and templates in Word and Excel can be downloaded from <http://www.eurobridge.org/regulations/systems/> and hard copies are available from the CBAI Office. Failure to fulfil this obligation or presentation of a card that in the opinion of the Tournament Director is insufficiently detailed will render pairs liable to an automatic penalty of **1 VP** per match.
6. Slow play / late arrival will be penalised in accordance with regulations to be posted in the playing rooms. Screens will be used and the EBL regulations regarding use will apply.
7. If an appeal arises, the teams will be consulted by the reviewer for whatever additional information required. The fee is €50 and if deemed without merit the fee along with up to 2 VPs will be deducted.
8. **Mobile phones** and other electronic devices capable of communication must be **SWITCHED OFF** in the playing area and be visible at the table at all times. Any player leaving the playing table prior to the completion of the stanza must leave their mobile phone and electronic devices at the table. A **2 VP** penalty will be levied for a first offence and similarly for a second offence. Any further offence will be treated very severely by the TD. Should any player need to have their phone on for any emergency reason, please give it to the TD and explain the situation.
9. **Seating Rights & Semi-Final Draw (Option A)** – The draw as to who plays who in the semi-final will be done by the Tournament Director in due course. – see appendix 1.2 for draw process.
The semi-final matches will be as follows 1 V 4, 2 V 3. The home team will have choice as to whether they want to choose seating rights for a particular stanza or let their opponents choose seating rights for a stanza. Once a team has chosen seating rights for a particular numbered stanza, their opponents then get to choose the seating rights for two of the remaining stanzas leaving the original team choose the rights for the remaining stanza (or Stanzas in the case of the final)

The team that wins their semi-final match by the higher number of IMPs will be the home team in the final. If both teams have won by the same number of IMPs, then the team who has scored the most IMPs will be the home team. If these are still the same the TD will toss a coin to decide the home team. The seating rights for the final will be along the same process as out-lined for the semi-final.

Seating Rights & Round Robin Draw (Option B) – The draw as to who plays who in which order in the round robin will be as per appendix 1.1 attached – This includes seating rights.

10. Ties :- **Semi-Final / Final (Option A)** As there are less than five (5) teams entered and therefore no Round Robin weekend, a tie in either the semi-finals or finals, an additional four (4) boards will be played to decide the winner.

Round Robin (Option B) :- If two teams are tied the result is determined by:-

- (1) The result of the direct matches. If still tied by VPs then by the number of IMPs in the matches. If the IMPs are the same then
- (2) The IMP quotient (total IMPs won divided by total IMPs lost) in all matches played by the tied teams. If a tie still remains
- (3) The higher margin of IMPs earned against the next highest-ranking team that both have played and so on.

Which failing, then by the toss of a coin.

If more than two teams are tied then they are ranked according to the number of VPs obtained against each other. If more than two are still remain tied, then from (2) above will apply

11. Correction / Amendment to the original schedule issued, all players must play a minimum of 50% of the boards at each stage. Therefore, for clarification,
(Option A) a pair must play at least 50% of the Semi-final boards and at least 50% of the Final boards should they qualify
(Option B) Round Robin :- A pair must play at least five (5) of the Nine (9) matches.
12. The International Committee is empowered to alter any of the arrangements or conditions including time, dates and venue, and to decide on all matters affecting these trials. Each player who enters is undertaking to represent Ireland if nominated and to abide fully with all the conditions of these trials.

Carol-Ann Cummins, Nuala Mooney, Derek O’Gorman, Paul Porteous, Diarmuid Reddan (Convenor)
- IBU International Committee

Appendix 1

1.1 Systems Reminder

Please note that Brown Sticker conventions & HUM's will be allowed but these conventions will need to be submitted along with proposed defences before 12th December 2023.

All pairs system cards need to be submitted by the 5th January 2024

1.2 Draw for **Semi-Final / Final match-ups (Option A)** or for **Round Robin (Option B)** will be as follows :-

The allocation of Teams to the draw will be as follows :-

Option A :- Semi-Final / Final

- 1) The first four numbers in the Irish Lotto on Saturday night 9th December will be allocated to the teams in the following order
- 2) Team A = First Number Drawn, Team B = second Number Drawn, Team C = third number drawn and Team D = the fourth number drawn
- 3) The teams will then be re-arranged based on their "Lotto" numbers
- 4) The lowest "Lotto" numbered team will play the highest "Lotto" numbered team (ie 1V4)
- 5) The other two "Lotto" numbered teams will play each other (ie 2V3)
- 6) The lowest "Lotto" numbered teams will be the "Home" Team in each of the Semi-Finals

Option B :- Round Robin

Steps 1 to 3 will be the same as above and then the draw will be as follows for the Round Robin

RR1: (Home Team has Seating Rights)

1v4 and 3v2

2v4 and 3v1

4v3 and 2v1

RR2: (Home Team has Seating Rights)

4v2 and 1v3

3v4 and 1v2

4v1 and 2v3

RR3: (Blind Lineup)

4v3 and 2v1

4v2 and 3v1

1v4 and 2v3

1.3 Reminder :-

As most of you are aware, there are also Mixed trials this year (taking place on 16th-18th February & 8th-10th March 2024) and Senior trials (12th-14th March). Rather than forcing players playing in the Open or Women's trials to enter for the Mixed / Seniors without knowing their own fate or the fate of some of their proposed teammates until after the Open / Women's Trials, the International Committee have agreed that anyone who plays in the Open or Women's Trials in 2023 is automatically deemed to have expressed an interest in playing in the Mixed Trials and any team with at least one (1) player who plays in the Open or Women's Trials will be allowed to enter the Mixed Trials up to January 31st 2023.

Similarly, players entering the Mixed trials who are eligible to play in the Seniors trials are automatically deemed to have expressed an interest in playing in the Senior Trials and any team with at least one (1) player who plays in the Mixed Trials will be allowed to enter the Senior Trials up to midnight on Sunday 10th March.

(Please note if a player qualifies in the Open or Women's Trials to represent Ireland then they cannot play in Mixed or Senior Trials and obviously if they qualify in the Mixed they cannot play in the Seniors)

Dates for your diary

Friday 8th December @ 5.00pm Captains to advise whether they want Option A (Semi-Final & Final) or Option B (Triple Round Robin 3 x 16 brds against all the other teams)

Tuesday 12th December :- Latest date for submission of Brown Sticker or Hum's and their defences.

Friday 5th January 2024 :- All system Cards to be submitted

Friday 19th January 2024– Trials Start

Wednesday 31st January 2024 - Closing date for teams entering the Mixed Trials if they have a Player who has played in the Open or Women's Trials