



Bridge Federation of Asia & Middle East



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BFAME Head Quarters, Karachi, Pakistan
ZONE - 4 CONFERENCE OF WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

Member National Bridge Organizations (NBOs) ■ BAHRAIN ■ BANGLADESH ■ INDIA ■ JORDAN
■ KUWAIT ■ PAKISTAN ■ PALESTINE ■ QATAR ■ SAUDI ARABIA ■ SRI LANKA ■ SYRIA ■ UAE

Zone - 4 Representative of World Bridge Federation: Mazhar Jafri

Presidents Emeriti : Mazhar Jafri & Ghassan Ghanem

ASHOK KUMAR GOEL
President

N.R.K. MOORTHY

Vice President

BAHJAT AL MAJALI

Vice President

AHMED AL MIDFA

Vice President

D. P. SENAWEERA

Treasurer

21st February 2017

BFAME Circular # 2 of 2017

To the Presidents of BFAME members NBOs of:

Bahrain, Bangladesh, India, Jordan, Kuwait, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Sri Lanka & UAE.

Dear President,

19th BFAME CHAMPIONSHIPS 2017

It is now nearly two months since the last BFAME Circular # 1 of 1st January '17. Although, so far, the response appears to be quite encouraging yet despite lapsing of the deadline of 15th February '17, we are still awaiting written confirmation of team's participation from some member NBOs, thus causing delay in final formulation of format and schedule of play as per the Supplemental Conditions of Contest.

It may be added that entries are still open for NBOs to add teams in Women & Seniors categories. In the Open, Bahrain is hopefully awaiting approval from their National Olympic Committee, while a positive response from Palestine is eagerly awaited too.

The team's participation position till date is as follows:

Open	Women	Seniors
1. Bahrain (Awaited)	1. India	1. Bangladesh
2. Bangladesh	2. Jordan	2. India
3. India	3. Pakistan	3. Pakistan
4. Jordan	4. Palestine	4. Jordan
5. Kuwait	5. Kuwait	5. Sri Lanka
6. Pakistan	6. Sri Lanka	6. UAE
7. Qatar	7. UAE	
8. Sri Lanka		
9. UAE		

It may be noted that Saudi Arabia and Syria are not mentioned in the above list due to Saudi Arabia's request to keep their membership on hold whereas the prevailing traumatic situation understandably explains absence of Syria.

In the Open category nine teams, in the Women category seven teams and in the Seniors category six teams have already confirmed their participation.

It is thus satisfying to state that BFAME is well above the WBF President's notified requirement for our zone's retaining participation eligibility of two teams in each of three championship events of the forthcoming 2017 World Teams Championships in Lyon, France, being participation of at least 50% of BFAME member NBOs in each of the 19th BFAME Championships events in Dubai.

It is desired that the **names** of the team members, accompanying officials and delegates with their scanned **photographs** in .jpg format for publication in the souvenir are sent to us by 10th March'17. In addition, **room reservations** at Holiday Inn, Al Barsha Hotel Dubai may also be made as soon as possible to avoid last minute disappointment. The partnership **Convention Cards** may also be prepared and forwarded to us. All this information would soon be available at <http://www.bridgewebs.com/bfame/>

Visas may be arranged through your travel agent preferably or in case of any difficulty, by mailing scanned photograph and passport **pages** in .jpg format to Mr. Amr Mekky, and pay him the visa fees on arrival.

Arrival details are also to be conveyed to Amr Mekky in time, so that complimentary welcome pick up from the airport to the hotel is comfortably arranged.

It may be noted here that to encourage participants to stay at the venue hotel, as per past BFAME practice, a discount of US\$ 300/- in the Entry Fee shall be available to teams occupying at least two rooms at the venue hotel for a minimum of six nights.

Tentative Format and Schedule of Play:

- The Round Robin matches shall consist of 16 boards each.
- The daily matches shall be of three sessions as follows:
 1. Morning session at 10 :30 A.M. till 12 :50 P.M.
 2. Afternoon session at 02 :30 P.M. till 04 :50 P.M.
 3. Evening session at 05 :30 P.M. till 07 :50 P.M.
 4. The above timings, as per BFAME past practice included in Conditions of Contest, are fixed to avoid any confusion.
 5. In case, there is a need of fourth session on any day, it shall be played from 08 :30 P.M. till 10 :50 P.M.
- In case of 7 or 8 teams, the total number of matches after complete Double Round Robin would be 14 matches spread over 5 days.
- In case of 9 or 10 teams, the total number of matches after complete Double Round Robin would be 18 matches spread over 6 days.
- Round Robin shall be followed by Semi Finals and Finals.
- However, in the event of 5 or 6 teams, there shall be complete Triple Round Robin comprising of 15 matches over 5 days. The top two teams shall play straight Finals, eliminating the need to play Semi Finals.
- The duration of each 16-board match with screens, shall be 2 hours 20 minutes.
- Semi Finals shall consist of 64 boards (16x4=64) and Finals of 32 boards (16 x 2=32).

The Holiday Inn Al Barsha Hotel Dubai is offering us spacious deluxe rooms at US \$125/- or (AED 455/-) net per night on BB basis Single Occupancy Single Room and US \$140/- (AED 505/-) net per night on BB basis for Twin Occupancy Double Room, inclusive of all applicable taxes and breakfast. An additional AED 150/- will entitle you to be upgraded to Club Class Floor with many additional facilities. Complimentary Wi-Fi, tea, coffee and mineral water will be available for players and officials throughout the championships.

With international cuisine through its various restaurants at subsidized rates, this hotel provides all the services a busy traveler might need, as well as some which you may not expect. The hotel wishes to extend their warm welcome in experiencing their services.

Venue Hotel: Holiday Inn Dubai – Al Barsha, Sheikh Zayed Road, Dubai, UAE

Phones: + 971 (04) 323 4333 or Toll Free 800 4642

Fax: + 971 (04) 323 4334

E-mail: nisha.pujari@hialbarsha.com

Website: www.hialbarshadubai.com

Reservation Link: [Bridge Festival](#)

The hotel has provided us with a special Reservation Link highlighted as above for making online room reservations. In case of any difficulty, you may contact Ms. Nisha Pujari, Groups Sales Coordinator on +971 4 704 0755 or on her cell # +971 52 352 8426 or alternatively Mr. Amr Mekky.

Apart from teams and their officials, those spouses and others desirous of visiting Dubai are most welcome. Those interested, may play in the Friendship Open Pairs on Tuesday 3rd April after the Opening Ceremony.

Entry Fees details:

- Any one Open, Women or Seniors Team would be US\$ 2,000/- per team.
- Combined Entry fee for any two teams from the above would be US\$ 3,500/-
- The combined Entry Fee for all three teams would be US\$ 5,000/-
- A cash discount of US\$ 300/- per team is being offered to teams occupying a minimum of two rooms at the venue hotel till the qualifying round robin matches. Thus, the combined entry fee could be reduced to US\$ 4,100/- for all three teams.

Kindly note to send the names of team members and officials, their photographs scanned in .jpg format along with passport pages and partnership Convention Cards through e-mails, latest by 10th March 2017 to any of the following addresses.

Vice President & Secretary BFAME

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UAE Bridge Committee

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Finally, please make sure that your WBF and BFAME annual dues are paid up-to-date. The annual subscription of BFAME @ US\$ 300/- per year along with the Team Entry Fees are to be paid in cash at the venue to avoid bank collection delays.

Looking forward to hearing from you at the earliest before the aforementioned dates.

Yours sincerely,

For and on behalf of the President,
Bridge Federation of Asia & Middle East

M. Azwerul Haque