THE IRISH BRIDGE UNION

INTERNATIONAL OPEN TRIALS 2023

EUROPEAN OPEN TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

DENMARK June 24th – July 4th 2024

1) Trial Dates

Weekend 1	19th – 21st January 2023	(Templeogue)
Weekend 2	26th – 28th January 2023	(Templeogue)

2) The format of the trials will be a Teams event. Entries are invited from teams of four or six players. Each player in a team of six must play at least 50% of the boards played by the team on each weekend on which the team plays in order to qualify for an invitation to represent Ireland in this event. Entries in writing must be submitted to:

Dermot O'Brien, info@cbai.ie
or
Harold Curran, haroldcurran501@gmail.com

no later than **1st December 2023**.

The entry fee of €600 per team must be paid to Dermot O'Brien before 1st December 2023. Entries without the entrance fee paid by this date will not be accepted.

3) Qualification

Each Player must have a minimum of 100 National Points or have won 50 in the past 3 years. If all players on a team meet these requirements, then they are a qualifying team and do not need to seek derogation. The International Committee will consider written applications for derogation from players who do not meet these requirements. Such applications must set out in detail why entrants consider an application for derogation appropriate, and must be submitted to Dermot O'Brien, info@cbai.ie before **24th November 2023.** See Appendix 1 attached for more information.

(Please note the IC discussed increasing the minimum number of National Points required but decided to leave it unchanged this year but it is expected to increase to at least 125 for the next IBU trials.)

4) The exact format of the trials will be announced after entries have been received.
Please note all teams will **NOT** get to play for the second weekend. See Appendix 1 attached

5) Exemptions to Final Weekend - **NONE**

6) The winning team will be invited to represent Ireland. If a team of four qualifies then the third pair will be selected by the IC, after consultation with the winning team, from the entrants for the trials. A reserve pair will also be nominated after consultation with the winning team. The NPC will be appointed by the IC after consultation with the players.

7) Grants. The IBU will pay an initial grant to each member of the team and the NPC.

8) As most of you are aware, there are also Mixed trials this year (taking place on 16th -18th February & 8th-10th March 2024) and Seniors 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 IC has 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.)

9) 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. 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 Qualification:-

A team with a player or players without the required number of National Points (i.e. 100 national Points or 50 won in the past 3 years) can apply to the IC for a derogation as per the procedure outlined below.

- The application must be received no later than 24th November 2023.
- The entry fee of €600 must accompany the application.
- The application must detail why entrants consider their application appropriate and should detail recent results that they believe are of significance as well as any additional information they believe may be appropriate.

After receiving the application the IC will make a decision as to whether or not they will accept the team.

Please note those that teams that are not accepted will get a full refund of their entry fee.

1.2 Format:-

For the benefit of all those entering the trials, once the qualifying number of teams has been obtained, it is envisaged that the format will be as follows:-

Open Trials

No of Teams	Weekend 1	Weekend 2
2	Straight Final (Sat/Sun)	None
3	Semi Final/Final(Fri/Sat/Sun)	None
4	Semi Final/Final(Fri/Sat/Sun)	None
5 – 6	Round Robin	Semi Final / Final (Fri/Sat/Sun)
7 – 8	Round Robin	Semi Final / Final (Fri/Sat/Sun)
9 or more teams	Round Robin	Semi Final / Final (Fri/Sat/Sun)

The IC expects the times to be as follows:-
Friday 18.30 through to Sunday 18.00, however as the Open & Women's trials are being held in the same locations over the same weekends, we may have to start earlier on the Friday in order to make sure that both events run smoothly with adequate security over boards etc, The IC will confirm the exact format on 5th December after all entries are received. Bridge will definitely be finished by 18.00 on Sunday of both weekends.

The Semi-Final / Final will be a 64 Board Semi- Final and an 80 board Final or in the case of only two teams entering it will be a Sat/Sun 112 board Final.

1.3 Systems & System Cards:-

Please note that the Supplementary conditions of contest will be issued on 5th December. Brown Sticker Conventions (BSCs) & Highly-Unusual Methods (HUMs) will be allowed but these conventions will need to be submitted along with proposed defences before 12th December 2023. All other pairs' system cards need to be submitted 2 weeks before the first weekend.

1.4 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 strength/weakness of a pair, is unlikely to be approved.

If a suitable substitute cannot be found for a match, the Tournament Director will award a score of 12 VP or such higher percentage achieved in the round robin, to the non-offending team for that match.

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.