THE IRISH BRIDGE UNION

INTERNATIONAL SENIOR TRIALS 2024

EUROPEAN SENIOR TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP
DENMARK June 27th – July 4th 2024
&
WORLD SENIOR BRIDGE GAMES
BUENOS AIRES October 22nd – November 5th 2024

1) Trial Dates

12th -14th March La Mon Hotel Belfast

2) The format of the Trials will be a Teams event. Entries are invited from teams of four (4) or six (6) players. Each player in a team of six (6) must play at least 50% of the boards played by the team 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 **31st January 2024** for teams with no player in the Mixed Trials. Teams with at least one (1) player playing in the Mixed Trials have until **March 10th 2024** to enter.

The entry fee of €600 per team must be paid to Dermot O'Brien before **31st January 2024** for those teams with no player in the Mixed Trials and **March 10th 2024** if they have a player from the Mixed Trials. **(Please note the full entry fee for the team must be paid when the application is submitted ie it is not to be paid in pairs or individually)**
Entries without the entrance fee paid by the above dates will not be accepted.

3) Qualification

Please note :- a Senior player must have achieved the age of 64 in the year of the Championship in which they are going to play.

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 January 2024.**
Please see Appendix 1 attached for more information.

(Please note the International Committee 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, however, the view of the committee is that it will be a Round Robin event as this is what we have done in the past with the Senior Trials.

5) Exemptions **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 International Committee, 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 International Committee 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 Open/Women & Mixed Trials this year. Rather than forcing players playing in the Mixed Trials to enter for Seniors without knowing their own fate or the fate of some of their proposed teammates until after the Mixed Trials, the International Committee have agreed that any Senior who plays in the Mixed Trials in 2024 is automatically deemed to have expressed an interest in playing in the Senior Trials and any Senior team with at least one (1) player who plays in the Mixed Trials will be allowed to enter the Senior Trials up to midnight March 10th 2024.

Obviously all the help the committee can get with regard to entries will be of assistance so while the official closing date is March 10th for players playing in the Mixed, we would appreciate if anyone thinking of playing in the Senior Trials could make one of the committee members aware of their thoughts as soon as possible.

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

If a team has entered the Senior Trials and cannot play because a Team member has qualified for the Mixed Trials then a refund will be allowed or a replacement player will be allowed.

8) 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 Qualification :-

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

- The application must be received no later than 15th January 2024.
- 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 International Committee 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 a round robin as follows :-

Senior Trials

Please note that the proposed format for this event will be as follows :-

No of Teams	
2	Straight Final
3	Round Robin
4	Round Robin
5 – 6	Round Robin
7 – 8	Round Robin
9 or more teams	Round Robin

The International Committee expects the times to be as follows-
Tuesday 12th March 18.30 hrs through to Thursday 14th March @ 18.00 hrs, however depending on the number of teams entered, we may start on the Wednesday @ 10.00 am or even earlier on the Tuesday if necessary (It will only be earlier on the Tuesday if more than 10 teams).

We will confirm the exact format on March 10th 2024 (and earlier if possible) after all entries are received. Bridge will definitely be finished by 18.00 hrs Thursday 14th March.

1.3 Systems

Please note that the Supplementary conditions of contest will also be issued on March 10th and please note Brown Sticker conventions & Hum's will be allowed but these conventions will need to be submitted before 10th March 2024.
All pairs system cards need to be submitted by 10th March 2024 also.

1.4 **Substitutes**

Subject to the approval of the International Committee (I.C.), a substitute may be allowed in emergency circumstances for a limited number of boards. A substitution, which in the opinion of the I.C. 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 V.P. or such higher percentage achieved in the round robin, to the non-offending team for that match.

Requests for substitutes for what the I.C. considers to be convenience reasons will **not** be approved. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the T.D. is empowered to make emergency substitutions.