

## Under 25 bridge 2007-09

**An U25 player is anyone who is 25 years old or younger with the proviso that a player ceases to be considered an U25 player on Jan 1<sup>st</sup> of the year in which his/her 26<sup>th</sup> birthday falls.**

Aim: To produce competitive teams for the 2009 European championships (one Open team, one Women's team). A secondary aim is to promote the game of bridge in general and to aid the development of young players.

Anyone interested in joining the U25 squad, whether or not they have serious aspirations regarding international representation, needs to get their names onto the squad database. The squad is open in that anyone of the appropriate age may join, whether as a single player or as half of a partnership.

Those wishing to join the squad should contact Paul Bowyer (U25 squad manager) via email ([bowyers.birstall@virgin.net](mailto:bowyers.birstall@virgin.net)). There is no bar on players joining at any time during the two year cycle.

All squad members will be obliged to sign a "good behaviour" document if they have not already done so. Squad members are expected to behave appropriately at all times, whether they are taking part in squad activities or whether they are simply playing the game in other events.

There will be a series of events for squad players over the two year cycle. This will include, in all probability, trials for selection. The events that require selection are:

**The Channel Trophy** (between England, France, Belgium and the Netherlands). Held annually, scheduled for late December.

**The Junior Camrose** (between England, Scotland, Wales, N Ireland). Held annually, usually scheduled for late winter.

**The Carrousel Cup** (between many European countries). Held annually in Amsterdam, usually scheduled for the spring, around Easter.

**The European U25 championships.** Held in varying countries, every two years. Usually scheduled for the summer.

There are restrictions on the systems that you may play. As the U25 European championships only allows WBF level 3 conventions that is what you will be restricted to in squad activities. For more information on this (and anything else to do with U25 bridge) please refer to the website, accessed via [www.ebu.co.uk](http://www.ebu.co.uk)

### **Dates to note:**

The first training weekend will be held on October 27<sup>th</sup>–28<sup>th</sup> at Loughborough Grammar School's Scout Hut, starting at 1:00pm on the Saturday. All welcome. Squad members who can only appear for one of the two days should still turn up when they can. Will all please notify Paul Bowyer of their intentions, whatever they are.

### **Free entries to EBU events.**

These are detailed in a separate document that you should read. The first "freebie" event this season is at the EBU autumn Congress in Bournemouth (nominally 2<sup>nd</sup>–4<sup>th</sup> November 2007). Here there will be a training day on the Saturday, leaving you to play for free in the teams on the Sunday. As the pairs starts on Friday the 2<sup>nd</sup> there is little point turning up until Saturday. The EBU is insisting on early applications for free entries so please organise yourselves promptly and apply to Paul Bowyer if you wish to play.