



ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION: 75TH ANNIVERSARY **Building on 75 years dedicated to Duplicate Bridge in England**

The **English Bridge Union** – the national organisation that promotes and regulates the game of bridge in England – will reach a milestone on 23 May 2011 when it will celebrate its 75th birthday. Special events and celebrations will provide the organisation with an opportunity to show the positive power of playing bridge and demonstrate the beneficial contribution that it provides to an individual's well-being and long-term future.

On the eve of the anniversary, Sally Bugden, Chairman of the EBU said: "There is a very clear future for bridge. All our work is undertaken with the strong belief that bridge has the most positive effect on society's health and wealth, as well as being great fun too. We look forward to meeting people and showing them that our great game can be played by anyone."

In its 75th anniversary Year, the **English Bridge Union** will demonstrate the unique appeal of the game, and how children and adults can improve their skills in numeracy, problem solving, team building, mental capacity and much more through playing it.

Highlights include:

- Junior European Championships, Albena, Bulgaria from 13 July 2011. We are sending two teams, our Under 20s – who won Silver in the World Bridge Championships in Philadelphia in 2010 – and our Under 25s.
- We are delighted that our Women's Team have qualified via the European Championships for the Venice Cup in this, our 75th anniversary year. The Venice Cup is the most prestigious and well established women's world championship. The team have recently seen great successes both in home internationals and further afield including winning Gold in the first World Mind Sports Games in Beijing in 2008. The Venice Cup will be a great opportunity for them to demonstrate their bridge playing skills at a very high international level.
- 75th Anniversary Mixed Pivot Teams Championships in Brighton at the famous EBU Brighton Summer Meeting in August
- Journalists' day in London in September. Primary school children will be given the opportunity to introduce the game they love to journalists over lunch.
- A special match between Primary School children and members of the All Party Parliamentary Group for the Development of Bridge will take place at the Houses of Parliament in November.
- A special 75th Anniversary House of Lords V House of Commons bridge match with many bridge playing parliamentarians from the past taking part in the event.
- Special 75th anniversary edition of the members magazine.
- Awareness days across England to promote the many benefits of bridge for children and adults with an opportunity to give bridge a go.
- Club parties and events throughout the year.

Press

For further information, please visit our special 75th Anniversary area on the EBU website: www.ebu.co.uk/media75 which will be live on Monday 23 May 2011. The area will include photos, interviews and information on special events. Alternatively please contact **Matt Betts**, the EBU's press and communications officer, on **01296 317 200** or by email Matt@ebu.co.uk. In addition, if you would like a copy of our special 75th Anniversary magazine, please let Matt know and this will be sent immediately.

What is Bridge?

Bridge is a trick-taking card game of skill and chance. It is played by four players who form two partnerships (sides); the partners sit opposite each other at a table. The game consists of the auction (often called bidding) and play, after which the hand is scored. Further information on the game can be found on the Media section of our website, please view [here](#).

Who Plays Bridge?

Microsoft chairman Bill Gates, tennis legend Martina Navratilova, actor Omar Sharif and the world's top investor, Warren Buffett...to name just four. In this country an estimated 150,000 people play bridge regularly in hundreds of clubs in cities, towns and villages up and down the land.

About the English Bridge Union

The English Bridge Union was formed on 23 May 1936 and is a non-profit making membership-funded organisation committed to promoting the game of duplicate bridge. It is also a National Bridge Organisation in its own right affiliated to the European Bridge League and the World Bridge Federation. New players are the lifeblood of the game and the EBU are keen to encourage them. For more information on the English Bridge Union please visit: <http://www.ebu.co.uk/media/pressresources.htm>