



PRESS RELEASE

Silver for under 21 England bridge team in Beijing

Although the Olympics finished in August, the Olympic spirit is still alive and well at the World Mind Sports Games in Beijing. For the last ten days and until 18 October, the WMSG have seen the five disciplines of Bridge, Chess, Chinese Chess, Draughts and Go played by over 3000 players from all over the world.

On 13 October, the England under 21's reached the final and played against France, losing by only 25 points in the most exciting match so far. In a game that is perceived by many to be played only by an older generation, the England under 21 team have shown that it is just as keenly represented by the young. The three partnerships of Adam Hickman & Daniel McIntosh; Ed Jones & Tom Paske; Ben Paske & Rob Myers are all experienced international players and have recently come back from the European Championships in Poland.

Bridge competitions are never predictable and in this event England has played against some of the strongest teams from around the world. However, the work and preparation over the last few months, led by the captain Michael Byrne and the coach, Alan Shillitoe have proven very effective. In the quarter finals, England played against the Netherlands winning by 57 points, followed by a close win of 17 points against China in the semi final. In the final, England played against old rivals, France. After some long and tough play, England was defeated by only 25 points. The team will receive their well deserved silver medals at a ceremony on Tuesday 14 October at 11am BST.

Sally Bugden, Chairman of the English Bridge Union said "We are delighted that our young players have done so well in this important world event. It shows what hard work and dedication can achieve. They are the most successful Under 21 Bridge Team that England has ever fielded and we are very proud of them."

England has two other teams currently playing in Beijing – Womens and Open. For up-to-date results, please click [here](#).

For further information on this press release and interviews with the teams, please contact Matt Betts, Communications Officer on 01296 317 200 or by email, Matt@ebu.co.uk.

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Notes to editors:

Press

Interviews are available and can be arranged through Matt Betts. We have a dedicated contact out in Beijing who can help co-ordinate interviews out there. Further information on the EBU and bridge can be found at the Media section of our website, please click here.

About Bridge

Bridge is one of the most enduring and popular games in the world; for over 100 years, people of all types and from all walks of life have been fascinated by the game. It is one of the most popular leisure activities in Britain, with around 300,000 people playing on a regular basis. 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. Please click here for more information on bridge.

Bridge is good for the mind

Bridge has been proven to be very good for the mind, and each game played offers a unique challenge of problems and solutions. Every single deal is different; every deal poses a new problem and can taunt the players to find the solution! It won't come as a surprise to know that bridge players soon develop special skills in problem solving.

About the English Bridge Union

The English Bridge Union was formed on 23 May 1936 and is a 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: www.ebu.co.uk

