



THE ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION
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For immediate release

England teams hopeful of medals in World Bridge Championships

Whilst most of the world's sports fans will be focussing their attentions on Twickenham this weekend, some will be looking towards Chennai, India, where the World Bridge Championships get underway. Around 400 of the world's elite players will be battling for the most prestigious prize in the sport with the three English teams all hopeful of podium finishes.

In the Open Teams event, for the Bermuda Bowl, England is represented by Andrew Robson OBE & Tony Forrester, David Gold & David Bakhshi and twins Jason & Justin Hackett. The Open team qualified by virtue of finishing in the bronze medal position in the 2014 European Championships, though members of the gold and silver medal winning teams – Israel and Monaco – have recently been accused of cheating ⁽¹⁾.

In the Women's Teams event, for the Venice Cup, England is represented by Heather Dhondy & Nevena Senior, Sally Brock & Nicola Smith MBE, Fiona Brown & Catherine Draper. The Women's team has been hugely successful in recent years, winning the 2008 and 2012 World Olympiad, and 2012 European Championships, and finishing second in the 2014 European Championship and 2013 World Championships. They will be hoping to go one better this time.

In the Senior Teams event, for the D'Orsi Trophy, England is represented by Paul Hackett & David Mossop, Gunnar Hallberg & John Holland, David Price & Colin Simpson. This team won the 2013 European Championships, and will be looking to repeat the success of 2009 when five of the players were victorious in the World Championships in Sao Paulo.

Twenty two teams will compete in each competition. After a full round-robin the leading eight teams in each competition progress to a knockout phase. The finals conclude on 10th October.

Bridge enthusiasts around the world will be able to following the action by watching online, and a group of supporters from England will be travelling to India to watch and offer encouragement to the English players.

Full results will be available on the World Bridge Federation website – www.worldbridge.org – and the results of the England team will be available on the English Bridge Union website – www.ebu.co.uk

1 – [Accusations made against members of the Israel team](#); [Accusations made against members of the Monaco team](#)
[2013 European Championships Report](#)

What is Bridge?

Bridge is a card-based mind sport, played in pairs against other pairs (the pairs are sometimes combined into teams of four or eight); The partners sit opposite each other at a table. There is an auction (often called bidding) and then the play, after which the hand is scored. The more tricks a partnership correctly predicts they will make the better their score - but if they do not make as many as they predict their opponents score points instead. In competitions the same hands are played at each table so you can compare your scores with the other partnerships and work out who did best with what they were dealt, thus almost eliminating the 'luck' aspect that exists in card games such as poker.

Playing bridge is one of the most enduring and popular pastimes in the world and for over 100 years it has fascinated people of all types and from all walks of life. It is one of the most popular leisure activities in Britain, with around 300,000 people believed to play on a regular basis. Famous players include Bill Gates, Martina Navratilova and members of the bands Blur and Radiohead.

About the English Bridge Union

The English Bridge Union (EBU) 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, affiliated to the European Bridge League and the World Bridge Federation.

The national headquarters of the EBU are in Aylesbury where around 20 professional people support and advise the committees, serve the membership, and help implement policy.

There are around 55,000 members of the EBU, playing in around 620 affiliated bridge clubs in England.

For any further information please contact:

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