



THE ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION  
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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

## England teams hopeful of medals at European Bridge Championships

**Budapest, 16<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

The football pitches of France are not the only places England will be competing for European glory this month. England's bridge teams will be in Budapest looking to reproduce the performances which saw them win three medals in the 2014 European Championships.

The Open<sup>[1]</sup> team will start their campaign tomorrow (Thursday 16<sup>th</sup>), and will compete against 36 other European nations during the ten day event. By coincidence, their match on Thursday afternoon is against Wales – so the two nations will be competing simultaneously in both football and bridge. After winning a bronze medal in 2014, and finishing 4<sup>th</sup> in the 2015 World Championships, the Open team will be aiming for a medal-winning performance.

The competition for the Women's team and Seniors<sup>[2]</sup> team starts on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>. The Women's team are one of the most successful in all of English sport in recent years, having won two golds, two silvers, and one bronze in the last five World and European events. The Senior team are defending European champions, having won gold in Croatia in 2014. Both travel to Hungary with high hopes of a place on the podium.

English Bridge Union Chairman, Jeremy Dhondy, is confident of a good performance. "Our teams have been going from strength to strength. In the last European Championships all our teams won medals and I expect us to do even better in Budapest over the next ten days."

The teams are:

### Open team

[David Bakhshi](#) & [David Gold](#)  
[Tony Forrester](#) & [Andrew Robson](#) OBE  
[Jason Hackett](#) & [Justin Hackett](#)

### Women's team

[Heather Dhondy](#) & [Nevena Senior](#)  
[Sally Brock](#) & [Nicola Smith](#) MBE  
[Fiona Brown](#) & [Catherine Draper](#)

## Senior team

[John Holland](#) & [Brian Senior](#)  
[David Kendrick](#) & [Patrick Collins](#)  
[Sandra Penfold](#) & [Norman Selway](#)

Scotland, Wales, and Ireland will also be represented in the event. Bridge enthusiasts around the world will be able to follow the action online, and thousands will tune in to watch each day. All events finish on Saturday 25th June.

Full results will be available on the European Bridge League website – [www.eurobridge.org](http://www.eurobridge.org) – and the results of the England teams will be available on the English Bridge Union website - [www.ebu.co.uk](http://www.ebu.co.uk).

[1] – The Open team can consist of any age, or gender, of player

[2] – The Seniors event is for those aged over 60

## 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 an estimated 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.

Bridge is recognised as a Mind Sport, and thus has 'sporting status' with many organisation including the International Olympic Committee and Charity Commission in the UK.

## 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.

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