



## ENGLAND'S WOMEN HOPE FOR WORLD WIN

The England Women's Bridge Team have qualified to compete for the Venice Cup – the most prestigious and well established women's bridge world championship.

The team has 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 another great opportunity for them to demonstrate their bridge playing skills at the ultimate international level.

England's women bridge players have a long and successful history taking part in the Venice Cup. In 1976, Great Britain won silver at the second championships, and then Great Britain followed this with Gold in 1981 and 1985.

The English Bridge Union - the national development and regulatory body for duplicate bridge in England – is delighted that the women's team are taking part in the world championships in this, its 75th anniversary year.

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. The England women are wonderful ambassadors to our game and we wish them well."

Further information about the competition and for interviews please contact Matt Betts, the EBU's press and communications officer, on 01296 317 200 or by email [Matt@ebu.co.uk](mailto:Matt@ebu.co.uk). Players biographies are at: <http://www.ebu.co.uk/media/internationals/Venice%20Biographies.pdf>

### ***What is the Venice Cup?***

The World Teams Championship in contract bridge for women players only is also known as the Venice Cup, because the first edition was held in Venice, Italy in 1974. It is held every two years, in parallel to the Open World Teams Championship, the Bermuda Bowl. The most recent Venice Cup was held in São Paulo, Brazil in 2009, the winners were China. The 18th Venice Cup will be 15 - 28 October 2011 in Veldhoven, Netherlands.

### ***Biographies of the team***

Available here: <http://www.ebu.co.uk/media/internationals/Venice%20Biographies.pdf>

### ***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 300,000 people play bridge regularly in hundreds of clubs in cities, towns and villages up and down the land.

### ***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 EBU and bridge can be found on the Media section of our website, please view [here](#).

### ***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>