



ENGLAND HOPE FOR EUROPEAN WIN

Three England teams are playing in the 51st European Bridge Team Championships in Dublin, Ireland from 12 June 2012. All the England teams are strong contenders for Gold, Silver or Bronze, as each have good experience of playing international bridge.

The England Open team are:
Tony Forrester & David Gold
Andrew Robson & Alexander Allfrey
Peter Crouch & Derek Patterson

England (as such) has never won the Open event. It was back in 1991 when Great Britain last claimed the title. Forrester and Robson survive from that triumph where their teammates were John Armstrong, Graham Kirby, Tony Sowter and Roman Smolski. Twenty-one years later, the England team has a good chance of winning.

The England Ladies team are:
Heather Dhondy & Nevena Senior
Nicola Smith & Sally Brock
Susan Stockdale & Fiona Brown

England last won the Women's Championships in 2001 in Tenerife although there were numerous triumphs for Great Britain in the preceding years. But this team offers a terrific blend of experience and youthful talent. Nicola Smith MBE, for instance, has been a leading international player for over thirty years and was a member of the British teams which won the Venice Cup, the women's world championship, in 1981 and 1985, and which finished second in 1976. Sally Brock, meanwhile, played and won her first European Championships in 1979. She too was part of the Venice Cup-winning team of 1981. Heather Dhondy has won three European titles between 1997 and 2001; and Nevena Senior has represented Bulgaria as well as England (and Britain) and won the European Ladies Pairs as long ago as 1987. Susan Stockdale and Fiona Brown don't have quite the same medals as yet, but they have already played a key role in enabling this team to qualify for the Venice Cup.

The England Seniors team are:
Paul Hackett & Tony Waterlow
Gunnar Hallberg & John Holland
David Price & Colin Simpson

England has never won the Seniors event since it began in 1995. However, five of the team (all apart from Waterlow who has replaced Ross Harper) won the 2009 D'Orsi Bowl (Bermuda Bowl for Seniors) in Sao Paulo, having finished 7th in Europe and being called up to Brazil as reserves. Three of them (Hackett, Hallberg, Holland) then went on to win the World Championships the next year.

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. Players biographies can be seen at: <http://www.ebu.co.uk/englishbridge/2012/June/Euros.pdf>

What is the European Bridge Team Championships?

The 51st edition of the European Bridge Team Championships will be held in Citywest Hotel, Dublin, Ireland, from 12 to 23 June 2012. As usual, the Championships comprise three series - for Open, Women and Senior national teams.

Biographies of the team

<http://www.ebu.co.uk/englishbridge/2012/June/Euros.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>