



## ENGLAND ARE BRIDGE WORLD CHAMPIONS

England have won Gold in the World Bridge Championship in Brazil – after getting in to the event at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour.

The six man side, which includes a former Metropolitan Police anti-terrorist officer and a retired law professor, saw off the challenges of 21 other countries during the two week event in Sao Paulo and beat Poland during a gruelling 96 board final yesterday (Fri) to land the D'Orsi Seniors Bowl.

The victory ends a sensational 12 months for English bridge following the success of the women's team in the Bridge Olympiad in Beijing last October.

The bridge World Championships are held every two years and feature the Bermuda Bowl (open event), the Venice Cup (for women) and the D'Orsi Seniors Bowl for seniors.

England has never won the D'Orsi Seniors Bowl but the history books were re-written when they overcame a disastrous start in the final to win the gold medal.

England had been on the reserve list for the world championships after failing to qualify outright, and only got their ticket to Brazil after the Netherlands pulled out of the event. However, they proved worthy substitutes and won the preliminary round robin stages which reduced the field to an eight nation knock out.

Sally Bugden, Chairman of the English Bridge Union, said: "Our Seniors team in São Paulo have once again thrust English bridge to the forefront of the world game. We are thrilled and proud that our players have done so well in this important world event. Their success represents a milestone for the game in this country."

The England team is due to return from Brazil next week but are available for interview today. Please contact **Matt Betts**, the EBU's communications officer, on **07723307674** or email **Matt@ebu.co.uk** for more information and for mobile numbers. Biographical information below:

The gold medal heroes of the Seniors team are:

**David Price** (age 60) based in Halstead, Essex is retired from the insurance industry, and now plays bridge full time. Price represented England in the European Championships in Malmo in 2004, which led to him representing England in the Bermuda Bowl in Estoril in 2005 (the first time England have ever played in the Bermuda Bowl).

**Colin Simpson** (age 61) from Fulmer, Buckinghamshire is a retired London Metropolitan detective. Simpson has played for England in a number of international events over the years and with Price reached the Bermuda Bowl in 2005.

**Gunnar Hallberg** originally from Sweden, now lives in Brighton and has played in a number of international events for England, including this year's European Open Championships.

**John Holland** (age 59) who lives in Manchester has many international and national bridge honours. He has represented England in Camrose matches and Great Britain in Mixed Teams Championships. At county level he has won virtually every event in the Manchester area.

**Ross Harper** (age 74) who lives in England founded a legal practice in Scotland in the 60's, and was later awarded a CBE for political and public services in 1986. He was also a part time Professor of Law. Harper has ten years experience playing in England's Seniors team, and recently played for England at the Bridge Olympiad in Beijing last October when his team finished at a courageous sixth place.

**Paul Hackett** (age 68) is one of the most prominent and successful names in professional bridge today. His numerous achievements include a World Championship title, gold, silver and bronze medals in the European Pairs, and now represents England - both at senior and open level.

Photos of the team can be downloaded [here](#).

### **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: [www.ebu.co.uk/media/pressresources.htm](http://www.ebu.co.uk/media/pressresources.htm)