



PRESS RELEASE

One Gold and two Silvers for England's bridge teams in Beijing

In the past couple of days, England women's team have won Gold and the England Open and Under 21's teams have won Silver.

Although the Olympics finished in August with Great Britain successfully winning a number of medals, the spirit is still alive and well at the first World Mind Sports Games in Beijing which started on 3 October. For the last fourteen days, the city has been hosting 95 countries in the World Bridge Games with 110 youth teams; 71 open teams; 54 women's teams and 34 senior teams competing to win medals. This is an extremely large event, showcasing many of the greatest bridge playing talents from around the world, and thus winning any medals is an excellent achievement.

The women's team won the Gold by one point against home nation, China. They had played strongly throughout the competition finishing comfortably at first position after the initial group stages. In the Quarter Finals, England played against a tough French team, finally winning by 37 points and in the Semi's, they beat Turkey by an ample 107 points. The final against China was always going to prove more interesting and tougher, as she is one of the most dedicated bridge playing countries in the world. However, the team of Heather Dhondy & Nevena Senior; Catherine Draper & Anne Rosen; Nicola Smith & Sally Brock are rightly proud of their achievement when they won by one point.

In the Open Category, England has never reached the final of a global bridge competition, so winning Silver this year is a great achievement. In the Quarter Final, England comfortably beat Romania by 121 points and then beat Germany by 134 points in the Semi's. In the Final, the England team of Nick Sandqvist & Artur Malinowski; Jason Hackett & Justin Hackett; David Gold & Tom Townsend played against Italy and over the course of two days, lost by only 30 points.

Finally, in a game that is perceived by many to be played only by an older generation, the England under 21 team showed that it is just as keenly represented by the young. After some excellent play, they finally lost to old rivals France by only 25 points in their most exciting match so far.

Sally Bugden, Chairman of the English Bridge Union said "We are delighted that our players have done so well in this important world event. It shows what hard work and dedication can achieve. They are three of the most successful English bridge teams that we have ever fielded and we are very proud of them."

Interviews are available with a member of each team out in Beijing right now, please contact Matt Betts, Communications Officer on 01296 317 200 or by email, Matt@ebu.co.uk if you would like their details. Please note that Reuters are out in Beijing covering the medal ceremonies.

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Notes to editors:

Press

All three England teams arrive back in the UK on 19 October 2008, and interviews can be conducted then, please contact Matt Betts to organise. We also have a contact in Beijing who would be happy to help on any enquiries. Photos and quotes are available too. Further information on the EBU and bridge can be found at the Media section of our website, please click here.

About Bridge

Bridge is one of the most enduring and popular games in the world; for over 100 years, people of all types and from all walks of life have been fascinated by the game. It is one of the most popular leisure activities in Britain, with around 300,000 people playing on a regular basis. 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. Please click here for more information on bridge.

About the English Bridge Union

The English Bridge Union was formed on 23 May 1936 and is a 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. Every year, the EBU fields national teams in international competitions. 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

