



## PRESS RELEASE

### *Unique game of bridge in London: 1-2 November*

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A unique and interesting game of bridge will be taking place in London on 1 – 2 November, pitting together the bridge playing talents of some of the greatest and world renowned players. Stakes will be high and tensions will be at an optimum level.

The two days of bridge are being played by two teams known as the “Naturalists” and the “Scientists” – both at very different spectrums of the game and who last met 15 years ago. The “Naturalists” are a team from the traditional Portland bridge club in London, who believe in playing an old fashioned version of bridge – from the pre-computerised age; whilst the “Scientists” favour the playing of modern bridge. It will make the two days very interesting and a challenge of two extremes for high stakes.

Playing in the “Scientists” team are some of the best known international bridge players, captained by Zia Mahmood (world champion and regular columnist of the Guardian). The other players are Andrew Robson (author and world champion), Boye Brogeland (2007 world champion from the Norway team) and English internationals - Gunnar Hallberg and David Gold. The “Naturalists” are captained by ship owner, Demitri Marchessini, with his team of Giles Hargreave, Patrick Lawrence and David Wolfson.

On Thursday, the bridge playing will be with 56 deals and the “Naturalists” are to be given a head start. On the second day, the game will include an added element to it - making it a very unpredictable day’s play. The cards will be dealt using a system called *Goulash* – which makes sure the cards are not thoroughly shuffled and therefore the game becomes very random and incalculable.

Thursday’s match starts at 2.30pm and Friday’s match starts at 2pm. Both matches will be shown live on Bridge Base Online and results will be updated on the English Bridge Union website.

For further information on bridge or the English Bridge Union please contact Matt Betts, Communications Officer on 01296 317 215 or [matt@ebu.co.uk](mailto:matt@ebu.co.uk).

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#### **Notes to editors:**

##### ***Further information***

For further information on the two games please email, [matt@ebu.co.uk](mailto:matt@ebu.co.uk) or visit [www.ebu.co.uk](http://www.ebu.co.uk). Pictures and final results will be available after the game. Generic photos and facts of bridge are also available on request.

##### ***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.

##### ***About the English Bridge Union***

The English Bridge Union Limited (EBU) 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. 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](http://www.ebu.co.uk)