



THE ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION  
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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

## England are European Champions, win Gold at bridge competition in Budapest

As the battle for European glory continues on the football pitches of France, England's Women's bridge team have ensured that Britain will have at least one European Championship winning side this summer. England's Women's bridge team have won gold at the 53rd European Team Championships which have concluded today in Budapest. The team was in second or third place for most of the seven day event, but moved in to the gold medal position in the penultimate round of matches, and beat second placed Poland in the final match to confirm their place atop the table.

This is the sixth consecutive World or European event at which the England Women's team has won a medal making them one of the most successful British international teams in any sport in recent years.

The team was: [Heather Dhondy](#) & [Nevena Senior](#); [Sally Brock](#) & [Nicola Smith](#); [Fiona Brown](#) & Catherine Draper; non-playing-captain: [Derek Patterson](#); Coach: [David Burn](#).

England's Open team<sup>1</sup> and Senior team<sup>2</sup> were less successful in their competitions, with both sides disappointingly finishing in 10th place. Teams from Wales and Scotland also took part, but none finished in the top 10.

37 countries participated in the Open competition, 24 in the Seniors' competition and 23 in the Women's competition. The event was run by the European Bridge League - [www.eurobridge.org](http://www.eurobridge.org) - and Brexit won't affect British participation in the 2018 event. Before that, England's women will compete in the 2017 World Championships and many teams from British nations will participate in the 2016 World Bridge Games in Wroclaw, Poland, in September.

[1] – The Open team can consist of any age, or gender, of player

[2] – The Seniors event is for those aged over 60

### What is Bridge?

Bridge is a card-based mind sport, played in pairs against other pairs (the pairs are sometimes combined into teams of four or eight); The partners sit opposite each other at a table. There is an auction (often called bidding) and then the play, after which the hand is scored. The more tricks a partnership correctly predicts they will make the better their score - but if they do not make as many as they predict their opponents score points instead. In competitions the same hands are played at each table so you can compare your scores with the other partnerships and work out who did best with what they were dealt, thus almost eliminating the 'luck' aspect that exists in card games such as poker.

Playing bridge is one of the most enduring and popular pastimes in the world and for over 100 years it has fascinated people of all types and from all walks of life. It is one of the most popular leisure activities in Britain, with an estimated 300,000 people believed to play on a regular basis. Famous players include Bill Gates, Martina Navratilova and members of the bands Blur and Radiohead.

Bridge is recognised as a Mind Sport, and thus has 'sporting status' with many organisation including the International Olympic Committee and Charity Commission in the UK.

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

The English Bridge Union (EBU) 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, affiliated to the European Bridge League and the World Bridge Federation. The national headquarters of the EBU are in Aylesbury where around 20 professional people support and advise the committees, serve the membership, and help implement policy.

There are around 55,000 members of the EBU, playing in around 620 affiliated bridge clubs in England.

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