



THE ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION  
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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

## England wins silver medal at World Bridge Championships

England's Women's team have won the silver medal at the World Bridge Team Championships. Competing for the Venice Cup, England came through the 22-team round-robin phase, before beating Russia in the quarter-finals and Sweden in the semi-finals. They were beaten in the final by China, but add a silver medal to the gold medal they won in the 2016 European Championships.

This is the third consecutive World Championships at which England's Women's team have won a medal, and they have won medals at seven of the last eight World or European events.

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

The event was run by the World Bridge Federation – [www.worldbridge.org](http://www.worldbridge.org). The event also included the Bermuda Bowl (for the Open teams<sup>[1]</sup>) and the D'Orsi Bowl (for senior teams<sup>[2]</sup>) – there was no English representation in these events, or teams from any other British nations, due to not qualifying from the 2016 European Championships.

A picture of the team can be downloaded from <https://ebu.smugmug.com/Miscellaneous-internationals/i-spVR8gd/A> (credit to World Bridge Federation)

[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. Famous players include Bill Gates, Martina Navratilova and members of the band Blur. Bridge is recognised as a Mind Sport, and thus has 'sporting status' with many organisations 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.

For any further information please contact:

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