



THE ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION
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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

England win bronze at World Bridge Championships

England's bridge squad continued its run as one of the UK's most successful international teams, with the Women's team winning a bronze medal at the 2015 World Bridge Championships in Chennai, India, on Friday 9th October.

The competition, which began on 27th September, featured 22 countries in three different competitions, each having qualified from their continental championships.

England's Women's team, the European silver medallists in 2014, reached the knockout phase after finishing fifth in the round robin stage. They defeated the USA in the quarter-final, before losing to eventual winners France in the semi-final. They beat the Netherlands in the bronze medal playoff to claim a medal at a fifth consecutive World or European event.

As highlighted in the [recent court case regarding whether bridge should be considered a 'sport'](#), the International Olympic Committee recognises bridge as a sport, and it was considered for inclusion in the 2020 games. If it were included in a future games then the bridge team would stand an excellent chance of adding to Team GB's medal haul.

The Women's team was Sally Brock & Nicola Smith, Fiona Brown & Catherine Draper, and Heather Dhondy & Nevena Senior.

The Open team, the European bronze medallists in 2014, finished fourth, having lost both the semi-final and third-place-playoff on the result of the final hand out of the 96 which they played.

The Open team was David Gold & David Bakhshi; Justin Hackett & Jason Hackett; Andrew Robson & Tony Forrester;

The Senior team, the current European champions – playing for the D'Orsi Trophy for those aged over sixty – lost in the quarter-finals.

The Senior team was Paul Hackett & David Mossop; Gunnar Hallberg & John Holland; David Price & Colin Simpson;

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 around 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.

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 630 affiliated bridge clubs in England.

For any further information please contact:

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