



EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE

Gianarrigo Rona
President

Milan, 20th July 2009

Dear President and Friend,

<p>50th EUROPEAN BRIDGE TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP 50th Anniversary Celebration EBL General Assembly</p>

<p>Organised by the European Bridge League In cooperation with the Belgian Bridge Federation</p>
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I am very pleased to confirm that the 50th European Bridge Teams Championships will be held at

Kursaal
Ostend, Belgium
22nd June to 3rd July 2010

Format of the Championships

The Championships consist of 3 Series: Open, Women's and Seniors

The Open Series will be played as two round-robins: In the first round-robin the teams will be divided into two groups in accordance with their ranking in the preceding 3 European Team Championships and will play a complete round robin within their group. At the end of the first round-robin the 9 best ranked teams from each group will qualify for the second round robin. The other teams finish the Championship at that stage. It is anticipated that matches will be of 20 boards. Each team qualified for the second (final) round robin will carry forward 100% of the IMPs and VPs achieved against the other 8 qualified teams from the first round robin and will play a 20 board match against each of the 9 teams from the other group.

The Women's Series will be played as a single complete round-robin with all teams playing each other. It is anticipated that matches will be of 20 boards.

The Senior Series will be played as a single complete round-robin provided that the number of participating countries is sufficient. It is anticipated that matches will be of 16 or 20 boards, depending on the number of matches played in this championship.

Timetable

- Open & Women Teams Registration Tuesday 22nd June 10.00 - 18.00 hrs.
- Captains meeting Tuesday 22nd June at 17.00
- Opening Ceremony Tuesday 22nd June at 19.30
- Open Teams 1st Round Robin Wednesday 23rd – Wednesday 30th June
- Open Teams Final Round Robin Wednesday 30th June – Saturday 3rd July
- Women's Teams Wednesday 23rd – Saturday 3rd July
- Senior Teams Registration Friday 25th June 10.00 – 18.00
- Senior Captains Meeting Friday 25th June at 17.00
- Senior Teams Welcome Friday 25th June at 19.30
- Senior Teams Saturday 26th June – Saturday 3rd July
- 50th Anniversary Celebration Saturday 26th June
- EBL General Assembly Sunday 26th June at 10.00
- 50th Anniversary Tournament Thursday 1st – Saturday 3rd July
- Prize-giving & Closing Ceremony Saturday 3rd July

Registration of Teams

All entries to the Championships tournaments **must be submitted electronically, via the EBL website (not by email) at**

<http://www.eurobridge.org/competitions/10Ostend/Information.htm>

by 1st April 2010. It is very important that this deadline is respected.

Registration of Players' Names

Registration of players' and NBO Delegation members' names **must be sent by 15th April 2010 via the EBL website (not by email) at**

<http://www.eurobridge.org/competitions/10Ostend/Information.htm>

Right to enter

Each member NBO, being up to date with the payment of its dues (including the 2010 dues) to the E.B.L. is authorized to enter one team in the Open Series, one team in the Women's Series and one team in the Senior Series of the Championships. Countries must have paid the entry fee and be up to date with the payment of the dues to the EBL before they can participate in the Championships.

Each participating member NBO must play against all other participating member NBOs. Entry and subsequent refusal to play will result in disqualification.

Every proposed player must, along with other criteria, satisfy the Credentials Committee that:

- a. he is nominated by the NBO of the country of his birth or the NBO of which such nominated player first became a member, and has not, during the current or immediately preceding calendar year, represented a different NBO in any WBF competition or any zonal or intra-zonal competition; or

- b. he is nominated by the NBO of the country of his citizenship or bona fide residence and has not, during the current or immediately preceding two calendar years, represented a different NBO in any WBF competition or any zonal or intra-zonal competition; and
- c. to participate in the senior series a player must have been born **before the 1st January 1951**

Main Hotel

The Main Hotel of the Championship will be the Thermae Palace Hotel and the Organising Committee has arranged special rates for the accommodation; please contact

Thermae Palace Hotel****
Koiningin Astridlaan 7, BE – 8400 Ostend
info@thermaepalace.be – www.thermaepalace.be
tel. +32 59 80 66 44

Deadline for booking February 28th 2010. After this date the hotel can no longer guarantee the availability of rooms.

Other Hotels Accommodation & Booking

The Tourist Office of Ostend has arranged special rates for participants with more than 20 hotels (from 4* to 2*) and guest houses, please contact

Tourist Office of Ostend
Mrs. Brigitte Boddin
Tel. +32 (0)59 25 53 17
trade@toerisme-oostende.be

Deadline for booking February 28th 2010. After this date the Tourist Office can no longer guarantee the availability of rooms

Entry Fees

The entry fees are € 3,500 for the Open and Women's Teams and € 3,250 for the Senior Teams. A discount will be given to countries who did not participate in the last three EBL Team Championships held in Malmö 2004, Warsaw 2006 and Pau 2008: for these teams the entry fees are € 2,500 both for the Open and Women and € 2,000 for the Senior Teams.

A discount of € 500 will also be given to countries who will accommodate all their players at Thermae Palace Hotel or make their reservation through the Ostend Tourist Office and arrange accommodation for all their players in the hotels recommended.

The entry fees must be paid by Bank Transfer **before or on 15th April 2010** to

BANQUE PARIBAS (Suisse)
2, Place de Hollande
CH-1211 Geneva 11 – Suisse
Account EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE Number 3097300
(IBAN) CH 46 0868 6309 7300 04978 – (SWIFT) BPPBCHGG
(to be mentioned)

Rules & Regulations – Systems Policy

The Rules & Regulations, including the Anti-doping Regulation and the Disciplinary Code, and the Dress Code will be published, together with the Systems Policy, on the EBL website from 1st January 2010

Systems Registration

Systems in all the series have to be registered with the European Bridge League Systems Administrator by 10th May 2010 at

anna@ecats.co.uk

50th Anniversary Celebration

On Saturday 26 June the EBL will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the European Teams Championship, instituted in 1932 with the 1st edition held in Scheveningen, in the Netherlands. All the European NBO Presidents, or their official representatives are cordially invited to attend on this very special occasion to enjoy the celebration and the gala dinner in the company of many former and current champions and officers who made the history of the League.

50th Anniversary Tournament

A pairs tournament will be held in Kursaal from Thursday 1st to Saturday 3rd July. I am pleased to attach a leaflet and you can find further useful information on the EBL web site. The entry fee will be free to players of teams knocked out of the Round Robins

EBL General Assembly

The General Assembly of the European Bridge League will be held on Sunday 27th June at 10.00 at the Thermae Palace Hotel at which the election of the EBL President and the 12 members of the Executive Committee for the legislature 2010/2014 will take place.

Further Information

For further information please contact

Marina Madia - EBL Secretariat

ebl@federbridge.it

I look forward to the participation of your Federation at the 50th European Bridge Teams Championship and I look forward to seeing you and your teams in Ostend, where I am confident we will enjoy together a great event..

Yours sincerely,

Gianarrigo Rona
EBL President

