

Contract Bridge Association of Ireland

Lady Milne Trials 2026

The Lady Milne Trophy is the home international competition in which women's teams from England, Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland, Scotland and Wales compete against each other annually. The dates and venue for the Lady Milne Trophy in the coming season are:

Date: 17-19 April 2026

Venue: Northern Ireland

The CBAI International Committee (IC) will hold trials from **2-4 January 2026** to select a team to represent the Republic of Ireland in the Lady Milne Trophy. The venue of the trials is to be confirmed.

The winning team will be selected automatically. If the winning team is a team of four, then the IC will, in consultation with the team's members, select an additional pair, in order to make up a team of six. The additional pair must have played in the trials. If the winning team is a team of five, then the IC will, if the team requests it, consider selecting an additional player, in order to make up a team of six. The additional player must have played in the trials.

The runners up will be offered a bursary towards playing in an event abroad. The amount to be decided by the CBAI.

Entries

Entries are invited from teams of four, five or six players, of good standing, hoping to play for Ireland in the Lady Milne Trophy 2025. Each player entering the trials must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- have a minimum holding of one hundred (100) National Points at entry date, or
- have qualified via the Pre-qualifying event held earlier in the year, such players being limited to a maximum of four pre-qualifiers (one team), or
- be a Junior player nominated by the CBAI Junior Committee as being of sufficient standard and ability to play in the Lady Milne trials, such nominations being limited to a maximum of four junior players.

The closing date for receipt of entries is Friday **14 November 2025** and entries, accompanied by the entrance fee of €400 per team **must** be submitted to CBAI National Headquarters on or before that date. The IC may in exceptional circumstances accept entries after the closing date.

Particulars of the trials format will be sent to the entrants within a Supplementary Notice in the week following the closing date.

Format

A round-robin movement will be played comprising stanzas of between 12 and 16 boards.

International Committee

Martin Brady, Jeannie Fitzgerald, Peter Pigot, John Carroll, Ciarán Coyne (convenor)

Rules/Regulations re Substitutes and Systems for Lady Milne Trials

Substitutes

Subject to the approval of the International Committee (IC), a substitute may be allowed in emergency circumstances for a limited number of boards. A substitution which in the opinion of the IC significantly affects the strength/weakness of a pair is unlikely to be approved.

If a suitable substitute cannot be found for a match, the Tournament Director will award an adjusted score to the non-offending side in accordance with the EBU White Book.

Requests for substitutes for what the IC considers to be convenience reasons will **not** be approved. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the TD is empowered to make emergency substitutions.

Systems

All players participating in these trials must have submitted a copy of their system in electronic format to CBAI National Headquarters (info@cbaie.ie) with their entry, so that their system may be uploaded to www.cbaie.ie and is available to their opponents.

Both members of a partnership are restricted to a single system and both must play the same system and methods in bidding and play.

Players may have a copy of their own system to hand during the event but may not refer to it during play, unless playing online.

The WBF Convention Card or equivalent must be used and may be downloaded at website below:

<http://www.ecatsbridge.com/documents/wbfinfo/systemsinfo/conventioncards.asp>

Hard copies of the WBF Convention Card are available from the CBAI National Headquarters. Failure to fulfil this obligation or presentation of a Convention Card that, in the opinion of the Tournament Director, is insufficiently detailed, will render each pair liable to an automatic penalty.

Highly Unusual Methods (HUMs) are **not** permitted in the Lady Milne trials.

Brown Sticker Conventions (BSC) are permitted in the Lady Milne trials, subject to full disclosure. Up to three BSC may be used by a partnership, details of which must be submitted on the appropriate form (available from CBAI National Headquarters) when entering the respective trials. Failure to submit same in electronic format with the entry will result in these Methods and/or Conventions being prohibited.

General

The IC is empowered to alter any of the arrangements or conditions including time, dates, and venue, and to decide on all matters affecting these trials.

The CBAI will follow any guidance in the EBU White Book in cases not covered by our own regulations.

Each player who enters these trials is agreeing to represent the Republic of Ireland if nominated and to abide fully with all the conditions of these trials.

International Committee

Martin Brady, Jeannie Fitzgerald, Peter Pigot, John Carroll, Ciarán Coyne (convenor)