

# Contract Bridge Association of Ireland

## TELTSCHER TROPHY TRIALS 2026 For TELTSCHER TROPHY TROPHY 2026

### Supplementary Information

**Date:** Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January to Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026.

**Venue:** Templeogue

Entries for the **Teltscher Trophy Trials 2026** have been received from four teams as listed below.  
The event will be run over **three days**

Unless otherwise notified to the Tournament Director (T.D.) the first named person listed in each team is designated as captain.

Number	Teams
1	BJ O'Brien, Randal Milne, Terry Walsh, Peter Goodman
2	Bill O'Hanlon, Sean Connor, Dave Terry, Tom Gilligan
3	Pat Quinn, Donal Garvey, Gay Keaveney, Enda Glynn
4	Paul Porteous, Fred Barry, Michael McAuliffe, David Dunne

The **four** teams, as above, will play a 40-board full round robin over 3 days.

Each match will be played as two 16-board stanzas followed by an 8-board stanza.

Each 16-board stanza will be allocated 2 hours and 10 minutes to play. Each 8-board stanza will be allocated 1 hour 5 minutes.

### SCHEDULE OF PLAY

<i>Day</i>		<u>Time</u>	<u>Matches</u>	<u>Boards</u>
<b><i>Saturday</i></b>	<b><u>Match 1</u></b>	<b>16:30 - 18:40</b>	1v2 3v4	
			<b><i>Break</i></b>	16
	<b><u>Match 1</u></b>	<b>19:40 - 21:50</b>	2v1 4v3	16
	<b><u>Match 1</u></b>	<b>22:05 - 23:10</b>	1v2 3v4	8
<b><i>Sunday</i></b>	<b><u>Match 2</u></b>	<b>10:00 - 12:10</b>	4v1 3v2	16
	<b><u>Match 2</u></b>	<b>12:25 - 14:35</b>	1v4 2v3	16
			<b><i>Lunch Break</i></b>	
	<b><u>Match 2</u></b>	<b>15:20 - 16:25</b>	1v4 2v3	8
	<b><u>Match 3</u></b>	<b>16:40 - 18:50</b>	3v1 4v2	16
<b><i>Monday</i></b>	<b><u>Match 3</u></b>	<b>10:00 - 12:10</b>	1v3 2v4	16
	<b><u>Match 3</u></b>	<b>12:25 - 13:30</b>	1v3 2v4	8

### Convention Cards

All pairs participating in these trials must have submitted their Convention Card to [info@cbai.ie](mailto:info@cbai.ie) by **January 22nd** for upload to [www.cbai.ie](http://www.cbai.ie). Both members of a partnership are restricted to a single system and both must play the same

system and methods in bidding and play. All teams are restricted to a maximum of four systems.

Please note that convention card templates can be found on the World Bridge Federation site at <https://www.worldbridge.org/wbf-system-card-editors>.

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 team liable to an automatic penalty of 1 VP per match.

Brown Sticker agreements (see Appendix 1) may be used provided separate forms for each Brown Sticker agreement to be played, together with viable proposed defences are submitted with the system card. Each pair is permitted to register and play a maximum of three Brown Sticker agreements. A pair may prepare written defences against the Brown Sticker agreements of any system. Such defences will have to be given to the opponents (two clearly legible copies) prior to the start of the match. Written defences against Brown Sticker agreements are deemed to be part of the opponents' System Card.

Highly Unusual Methods (HUMs) are not permitted in the Teltscher trials.

### **Convention card formats**

Acceptable formats for submission of system cards are:

- A PDF of the system card and any supplementary notes
- A Microsoft Word Document (doc or docx format)
- An Open Document Format (odt format e.g. OpenOffice, LibreOffice)
- A Google Docs format document

### **Round Robin**

The highest ranked team at the end of the Round Robin will be declared the winner.

If any selected team consists of four players, an additional pair will be added by the I.C. following discussion with the captain of the winning team. The additional pair will be chosen by the I.C. from amongst the pairs that played in these trials, after consultation with the winning team. A reserve pair will be chosen in the same way.

### **Captain**

NPC to be appointed by the I.C., following consultation with the winning team.

### **Teams of Four**

Please note that if a Team of Four wishes to add another pair to their team at this stage prior to the commencement of the trials, they can do so with the approval of the I.C. assuming players have sufficient National Point holdings etc.

### **General**

The I. C. will decide on all matters affecting these trials and reserves the right to modify the Conditions of Contest at any time after its publication but before the beginning of these trials. After the start of these trials, only on the initiative of the Chief Tournament Director may changes be proposed to the I.C., who will then decide whether or not to implement such amendments.

Entering or being accredited to attend these trials means that everybody concerned with such entry or accreditation (Organisations, Teams and Individuals) knows and agrees to abide by the Conditions of Contest of these trials.

### **International Committee:**

Ciaran Coyne (Convenor), Martin Brady, Jeannie Fitzgerald, Peter Pigot, John Carroll

**15 January 2026**

## Supplementary Conditions of Contest

### 1. Bidding Boxes, Bridge-Mates, Screens and Conduct

The Bidding Box, Bridge-Mate, Screen and Conduct Regulations of the BGB shall apply, where necessary

[https://www.bridgewebs.com/cgi-](https://www.bridgewebs.com/cgi-bin/bwop/bw.cgi?club=bgb&pid=docs)

[bin/bwop/bw.cgi?club=bgb&pid=docs](https://www.bridgewebs.com/cgi-bin/bwop/bw.cgi?club=bgb&pid=docs) 2023%20Home%20International%20Regulations.pdf

The use of Bidding Boxes is mandatory. Electronic or other devices may be used to record bidding and play, enter results, control the time of the play, to send the collected data to any control centre etc.

Screens will be used whenever possible.

### 2. Late Arrival and Slow Play

Any Pair not seated and ready to play at the start of a session will cause their team to be fined 1 VP and a further VP for every five (5) minutes thereafter. At the end of the allocated time the Director must impose, for any table still in play, a fine of 1VP for any delay up to five (5) minutes, and an additional fine of 1VP for each further delay of five (5) minutes or part thereof. For delays of more than twenty (20) minutes the I.C. may impose a more severe penalty. The penalties are per table and will be shared equally by both teams if they are considered to bear equal responsibility for overrunning. Appeals against penalties for slow play may be based only on a question as to the Tournament Director's findings of fact.

### 3. Seating Rights and Line Ups

The Home Team seats their players second for each 16-board segment. The first named team in the schedule is the Home team in each segment. Blind seating for the final 8-board segment.

### 4. Electronic Equipment

Mobile phones and electronic devices capable of communication must be switched off in the playing room and be visible at the table at all times. Any player leaving the playing table prior to completion of the session must leave their mobile phone and electronic devices at the table. Any player or captain breaching these regulations will cause their team to be fined 2 VPs for each offence. This penalty is automatic. A second violation will also result in the player being prohibited from playing and/or captain not being admitted into the playing area for the next match. Players expecting an urgent call may leave their mobile phone with the T.D. who will notify that player of any call. Any spectator whose mobile phone or electronic equipment is activated in the playing area will be asked to leave the playing area until the end of that session.

### 5. Fouled Board

A board is considered "fouled" if the Tournament Director determines that one or more cards were misplaced in the board in such a manner that contestants who should have direct comparison did not play the board in identical form. If in a team event, a pre-duplicated board is wrongly dealt and Law 13 applies in such a way that the board cannot be played, the board is considered to be a fouled board. A board is not considered fouled, if the boards played in the same match are identical even though that board may differ from the like numbered board played in simultaneous matches.

In general, a fouled board should be replayed through the substitution of a new board. In addition, penalties will apply in certain circumstances (see below\*). Replays through the substitution of one new board shall not be permitted after the result of a session may be known to the contestants, as to which circumstances the Tournament Director's decision shall be binding. If a board is fouled and the non-offending teams are unable to play that board or a substitute board then they will receive 3 IMPs on the board. (subject to a maximum of 2 x 3 IMPs in any 12 board stanza)

\*If a board is fouled and it can be determined that one side is clearly at fault, that side shall be subject to a procedural penalty.

## **6. Scoring**

The difference in the total point score on each board is converted to International Match Points ("IMPs") per W.B.F. scale. Scoring will be IMPs converted to VPs as per W.B.F. 'continuous' VP scale appropriate to the number of boards played in the match.

Bridgemates will be used to enter the results of the boards played. It is North/South's responsibility to enter those results and East/West should validate this input. The Bridgemate score will be the score used as the official record. At the end of each session the T.D. will produce Match records for each team which will be deemed the Match Score.

An error may be corrected if notified to the T.D. For all matches in the trials, the correction period is fifteen (15) minutes from when the Tournament Director's printout is available.

If two teams are tied the result is determined by:-

- (1) The result of the direct match. If still tied by VPs then by the numbers of IMPs in the match. If the IMPs are the same then
- (2) The IMP quotient (total IMPs won divided by total IMPs lost) in all matches played by the tied teams. If a tie still remains
- (3) The higher margin of IMPs earned against the next highest-ranking team that both have played and so on.

Which failing, then by the toss of a coin.

If more than two teams are tied then they are ranked according to the number of VPs obtained against each other. If more than two are still remain tied then from (2) above will apply

## **7. Substitutes**

Subject to the permission of the I.C., a team of four players may be allowed to play an eligible substitute for up to two sessions (stanzas) in emergency circumstances. The I.C. may, in exceptional emergency circumstances, give permission to substitute for one extra session. A request for a substitute for what the I.C. considers a convenience reason will not be approved. A substitute may not play in more than one partnership. A substitution, which in the opinion of the I.C. significantly affects the strength/weakness of a pair, is unlikely to be approved. If a suitable substitute cannot be found for a session, that team will automatically concede a walk-over to the opposing team. Substitutes will not be allowed on teams of six players. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the T.D. is empowered to make emergency substitutions. Substitutes may not be a member of another participating team in the trials.

## **8. Appeals: Review Procedure**

Appeals will be heard by a "Reviewer" appointed by the I.C. The time limit for seeking a review is 30 minutes after the session in which the ruling was given has ended and a deposit of €50 is required .

The Reviewer will check that the T.D. has gathered the necessary evidence of what occurred when the infraction arose. The Reviewer will then need to be satisfied that the correct law was applied. In matters involving the judgement that was exercised by a player following unauthorised information, incorrect explanation or failure to alert, the Reviewer will clarify that suitable other players have been asked appropriate questions to enable a judgmental view to be obtained. Finally, the Reviewer will check that the ruling that was issued based upon all the information available to the T.D. was within the bounds of reasonableness.

The fact that the Reviewer might have determined a slightly different ruling will not be good reason for the ruling to be varied. In the event that the process had not been followed properly in some material way, the Reviewer will ask the T.D. to correct the failings and issue a new ruling.

If in the opinion of the Reviewer there is insufficient basis for requesting the review one or both of the following sanctions may be applied:

- i. Forfeiture of the monetary deposit.
- ii. Victory Points deducted from the score of the appealing side.

## **Appendix 1- Brown Sticker agreements and treatments**

The following agreements or treatments are categorised as **Brown Sticker**:

1. Any opening bid of two clubs through three spades that:

- could be weak (may by agreement be made with values below average strength) **and**
- does not promise at least four cards in a known suit.

one known suit, and the strong meanings show a hand with a king or more above average strength, it is not a **Brown Sticker** agreement.)

**EXCEPTION:** A two level opening bid in a minor showing a weak two in either major, whether with or without the option of strong hand types containing 16 high card points or more, or with equivalent values. Defensive measures are permitted for opponents as if a **Brown Sticker** agreement.

2. An overcall of a natural opening bid of one of a suit that does not promise at least four cards in a known suit.

**EXCEPTION:** A natural overcall in no trumps.

**EXCEPTION:** Any cue bid suit that shows a strong hand.

**EXCEPTION:** A jump cue bid in opponent's known suit that asks partner to bid 3NT with a stopper in that suit.

3. Any 'weak' two-suited bids at the two or three level that may by agreement be made with three cards or fewer in one of the suits.

4. Psychic bids protected by system or required by system.

5. None of the foregoing restrictions pertain to conventional defences against strong, artificial opening bids or defences against **Brown Sticker** or HUM agreements.

6. For the avoidance of doubt an opening bid of one club which may be made on a doubleton or singleton club and which is ostensibly natural and non-forcing should be regarded as natural and not artificial.

### **International Committee:**

Ciaran Coyne (Convenor), Martin Brady, Jeannie Fitzgerald, Peter Pigot, John Carroll

**15 January 2026**