



THE IRISH BRIDGE UNION
INTERNATIONAL TRIALS for 2026
EUROPEAN NATIONAL SENIOR TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP
Riga, Latvia June 26th – July 5th 2026
TRIAL & ENTRY UPDATES (17/2/2026)

Dates :- 10th-12th March (La Mon Hotel, Belfast)

Tournament Director :- John Phelan

There will be three (3) x fourteen boards in each Round Robin and there will be three Round Robins in all.

Entries have been received from 4 teams as listed below, a draw as to the order of play has been done and the team numbers are as follows :-

Team	Captain	Player 1	Player 2	Player 3	Player 4	Player 5	Player 6
1	Harold Curran	Harold Curran	Anne Fitzpatrick	John Lavery	Michael Coffey		
2	Donal Garvey	Donal Garvey	Pat Quinn	Michael McAuliffe	David Dunne	Paul Delaney	Thomas Roche
3	BJ O'Brien	BJ O'Brien	Ranald Milne	Peter Goodman	Gay Keaveney	Pat Barry	Rex Anderson
4	John Ferguson	John Ferguson	Tony Elliott-Kelly	Ian Hamilton	Hastings Campbell		

SCHEDULE OF PLAY

With 4 teams the Schedule of Matches will be a Round Robin Format.

The event will be played as a triple Round Robin of 3 x 14 board matches as follows :-

Tuesday 10 th March		Wednesday 11 th March		Thursday 12 th March	
RR1 M1	18.30 – 20.30	RR1 M3	10.00-12.00	RR3 M1	10.00-12.00
RR1 M2	20.45 – 22.45	RR2 M1	12.15-14.15	RR3 M2	12.15-14.15
		Lunch		Lunch	
		RR2 M2	15.15-17.15	RR3 M3	15:00-17.00
		RR2 M3	17.30-19.30		

Additional Information

1. The Grant available for each player is €1,000 and also a grant of €1,000 for the NPC.
2. As previously advised Brown Sticker Convention's & HUMS are allowed but these needed to be submitted along with proposed defences **before 27th January 2026 – NONE have been received so No Brown Sticker or HUMS are allowed**
3. All system cards need to be submitted **before 5.00pm on Thursday 26th February 2026**
4. Additional Pairs :- If a team of four (4) wishes to add another pair prior to the Trials weekend they can do so with the approval of the IC.
5. If a team wishes to change a team member prior to the start of the trials, they can do so with the approval of the IC.
6. The winning team will be selected as the Irish Seniors Team to represent Ireland in Riga, Latvia, June 26th – July 5th 2026 (or amended dates if applicable) at the European National Open Team Championships.
Please note if a team of four (4) wins, a third pair who have played in the trials will be added to the team. The pair will be selected by the team in conjunction with the IC. The Team Captain will also be chosen by the team in conjunction with the IC, as will a reserve pair.

7. **Substitutes**

Substitutes will only be allowed on teams of four (4) and with the approval of the IC.

A substitute may be allowed in emergency circumstances only and for a limited number of boards. (max 28).

A substitution, which in the opinion of the IC significantly affects the strength / weakness of a pair, is unlikely to be approved.

If a team is unable to provide a suitable substitute the Tournament Director will award the highest of the following to the non-offending team:-

- a) 12 VPs,
- b) The average VPs achieved by the non-offending team in the round robins,
- c) 20 minus the Average VPs scored by the offending team in the round robins.

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

Players cannot be changed during a stanza, unless there is a medical emergency, and only with the approval of the TD.

8. Each pair participating in the trials must have two copies of their system available to present to their opponents before a session of play begins. Cards must be in the correct format and templates in Word and Excel can be downloaded from <http://www.eurobridge.org/regulations/systems/> and hard copies are available from the CBAI Office. Failure to fulfil this obligation or presentation of a card that in the opinion of the Tournament Director is insufficiently detailed will render pairs liable to an automatic penalty of **1 VP** per match.
9. **Slow play / late arrival** will be penalised in accordance with regulations to be posted in the playing rooms. Screens will be used and the EBL regulations regarding use will apply.

10. If an appeal arises, the teams will be consulted by the reviewer for whatever additional information is required. The fee is €50 and if deemed without merit the fee along with up to 2 VPs will be deducted.

11. **Mobile phones** and other electronic devices capable of communication must be **SWITCHED OFF** in the playing area and be visible at the table at all times. Any player leaving the playing table prior to the completion of the stanza must leave their mobile phone and electronic devices at the table. A **2 VP** penalty will be levied for a first offence and similarly for a second offence. Any further offence will be treated very severely by the TD. Should any player need to have their phone on for any emergency reason, please give it to the TD and explain the situation.

12. Seating Rights

Round Robin 1 :- The Home team will have seating rights

Round Robin 2 :- The Away Team will have seating rights

Round Robin 3 :- There will be blind Line-Ups

In RR3 M1 Team 1 plays Team 2

In RR3 M2 Team 1 plays Team 3

In RR3 M3 Team 1 plays Team 4

NB – The actual draw of who plays who is attached

13. **Ties** :- Ties will be broken based on the VP totals won between the teams in the Matches involving the tied teams. If there is still a tie, the tie will be broken based on the difference between the total number ofimps won & lost by each team in the direct matches. If the tie still remains unbroken, the tie will be won by the team that had the highest imp difference in any one of its Matches against one of the other tied teams.

14. All pairs must play at least 50% of the boards i.e. at least 5 of the 9 Matches.

15. The International Committee is empowered to alter any of the arrangements or conditions including time, dates and venue, and to decide on all matters affecting these trials. Each player who enters is undertaking to represent Ireland if nominated and to abide fully with all the conditions of these trials.

Carol-Ann Cummins, Nuala Mooney, Derek O’Gorman, Paul Porteous, Diarmuid Reddan (Convenor)
- IBU International Committee

Dates for your diary

Thursday 19th February 2026 :- Actual Draw will be Published

Thursday 26th February 2026 :- All system Cards to be submitted by 5.00pm

Tuesday 10th March 2026 :- Trials Start @ 6.30pm