

Contract Bridge Association of Ireland
2026 Trials Pre-Qualifier Preliminary Notice for Camrose and Lady Milne Trials

The Lady Milne Trophy and the Camrose Trophy are home international competitions in which teams from England, Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland, Scotland and Wales compete against each other annually.

The Lady Milne Trophy is for women's teams only and the Camrose Trophy is an open competition.

The dates and venues for these events in the coming season are:

Lady Milne: 16-18 April 2027 in Wales

Camrose: Weekend 1: 8-10 January 2027 in England
Weekend 2: 5-7 March 2027 in Scotland

The CBAI International Committee (IC) will hold trials to select two teams to represent the Republic of Ireland in these competitions. The minimum entry requirement (unless nominated by the CBAI Junior Committee or selected via Pre-Qualifying trials) is for entrants to hold 100+ National Points.

The dates for these trials are:

Camrose trials: 30-27 October 2026

Lady Milne trials: 9-11 October 2026

Prior to these trials, the IC is inviting players of a suitable standard, but who are otherwise unable to enter the main trials, to pre-qualify. This pre-qualifier trials will be held on **12-13 September 2026** in Templeogue.

Entries

Entries are invited from pairs in good standing, hoping to play for Ireland in either the Lady Milne or the Camrose Trophies. A player may not enter these trials if they are already entered into the Lady Milne or Camrose trials.

Entry is restricted to players with either

- 50+ National Points
- 25+ National Points won in the previous three bridge seasons

The closing date for receipt of entries is **7 August 2026** and entries, accompanied by an entry fee of €70 per person, **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 Pre-Qualifier trials format will be sent to entrants within a Supplementary notice in the week following the closing date.

The event is dependent upon a minimum entry of 12 pairs.

Format

The Pre-qualifier will be a three-session IMP pairs competition.

The two best placed women's pairs will be eligible to play as a team in the Lady Milne trials. If one or both pairs were placed in the top two, then they may elect to play in the Camrose trials instead and the next best women's pair(s) will qualify to play, as a team, in the Lady Milne trials. Once the Lady Milne qualifiers are known then the best placed two remaining pairs will qualify to play, as a team, in the Camrose trials.

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If it transpires that, due to shortage of suitable entrants, only one pair is eligible to qualify for the Lady Milne trials then there will be no pre-qualifying team for that event.

Players who qualify to play in the trials for either the Lady Milne or the Camrose will receive a credit equivalent to the entry fee of the Pre-Qualifier which can then be put towards their entry fee for the main trial.

Players who qualify will also be offered coaching which will be funded by the CBAI.

Whereas the exact schedule and number of boards per round will be decided after the closing date when the number of pairs entered in the trials is known, it will involve a single or double round-robin, with each pair playing a direct match over as many boards as possible against each of the other pairs.

Players will be awarded National Points (see www.cbai.ie for details).

International Committee

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

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Rules/Regulations re Substitutes and Systems for Pre-Qualifiers

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 (TD) 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 this event 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 System 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 System Card are available from the CBAI National Headquarters. Failure to fulfil this obligation or presentation of a System Card that, in the opinion of the TD, is insufficiently detailed, will render each pair liable to an automatic penalty.

Highly Unusual Methods (HUMs) are not permitted.

Brown Sticker Conventions (BSC) are permitted, 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 play in any national trials that they qualify for.