

Contract Bridge Association of Ireland

Lady Milne & Camrose Pre-Trials 2026

Supplementary Information

Date: Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 September, 2026.

Venue: The Bridge Centre, Templeogue

Entries for the Pre-qualifying Trials 2026 have been received from the pairs listed below.

The event will be run over **two days**, as per the schedule herewith.

PAIR NO

- 1 Sue Power & Niamh Harty**
- 2 Marie Callanan & Frank Davey**
- 3 Deirdre Leopold & Helen Friel**
- 4 Peter Ryan & Liz Jennings (replacing Margaret Cunningham & Melissa Brady)**
- 5 Adrienne Purdy & Martin Purdy**
- 6 Mairéad Ní Oistín & Sheila Horkan**
- 7 Anthony Moloney & Marie James**
- 8 Betty Cody & Una O’Gorman**
- 9 Rachel Connellan & Fiona O’Gorman**
- 10 Verna Brownlow & Geoff Roberts**

The ten [10] pairs, as above with numbers assigned randomly, will play a round robin of 9 x 12-board matches of IMP pairs as per the schedule on the next page. A schedule of specific match-ups will be provided before the start of play.

The International Committee (IC) has determined that no pair will qualify for either the subsequent Lady Milne or Camrose trials unless they score at least 50% of the available Victory Points in the Pre-qualifying Trials. This may mean that qualifying teams cannot be formed for both the Lady Milne and Camrose trials. Pairs of female qualifiers, who are eligible for both trials, continue to have the right to nominate which of the subsequent trials they wish to enter.

Subject to the above, 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 placed in the top two, then they may elect to play in the Camrose trials and the next best women’s pair(s) will then qualify to play 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. These teams may, if they wish, add a third, suitably qualified, pair to make up a team of six for the subsequent trials for which they have qualified.

If there is a decision on which major trial to play in it should, ideally, be made as soon as the results are known; but 24 hours grace is offered if there is doubt. In the event of a delay in announcing the qualifiers then all trialists will be advised of the outcome as soon as these decisions are made known to the CBAI.

In any event, those that narrowly miss out on qualification are asked to keep themselves in reserve as they may be asked to step in should a qualifying pair(s) withdraw.

Facilities: The facilities of the Bridge Centre will not be open for the trials. Water will be available.

Kibitzing: Will be allowed.

Viewgraph: Will not be used.

System Cards

All pairs participating in these trials must have submitted their System Card to info@cbai.ie by **17:00 on Weds 9 September** 2026 for upload to 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.

Please note that the most up to date Word version of the card is on the BGB website.

Failure to fulfil this obligation or presentation of a System 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.

Highly Unusual Methods (HUMs) are NOT permitted.

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.

System 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

SCHEDULE OF MATCHES

<i>Saturday</i>		
	Round 1	13:00 – 14:30
	Round 2	14:40 – 16:10
	Round 3	16:20 – 17:50
	<i>Dinner (70 minutes)</i>	17:50 – 19:00
	Round 4	19:00 – 20:30
	Round 5	20:40 – 22:10

<i>Sunday</i>		
	Round 6	11:00 – 12:30
	Round 7	12:40 – 14:10
	<i>Lunch (65 minutes)</i>	14:10 – 15:15
	Round 8	15:15 – 16:45
	Round 9	16:55 – 18:25

These timings allow 90 minutes per round for play, and 10 minutes for scoring and moving to the next round. Slow play regulations will be strictly enforced (see Section 6 below), and participants are advised that the end of the allocated time for **play will be 90 minutes** after the start of the round.

General

The IC 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 IC, 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.

Supplementary Conditions of Contest

1. Bidding Boxes, BridgeMates, Screens and Conduct

The Bidding Box, BridgeMate, Screen and Conduct Regulations of the BGB shall apply, where necessary.

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. Screen Regulations (WBF policy)

The North and East players sit on the same side of the screen. The sequence is this: North places the board on the bidding tray and the aperture is closed completely (thereafter it remains closed for the duration of the auction period). The players remove their cards from the board and the tray is passed under the closed aperture to the side of the screen with the Dealer.

Calls are made using the bidding box. Each player places a selected call on the bidding tray, which will be visible only on the player's side of the screen. A player's first call should touch the extreme left of the nearest segment of the bidding tray. All calls must be visible and neatly overlap in a straight line from left to right, at an equal distance from each previous call. Players should make every effort to perform these actions as quietly as possible.

With screens in use a call is considered 'made' when placed on the tray and released. A player who removes one or more calls made from the tray in an apparent attempt to "Pass" is indeed deemed to have "Passed".

After two players on the same side of the screen have made their calls, North or South (as the case may be) slides the entire bidding tray **gently** under the centre of the screen so that it is visible only to the players on the other side who then make their calls in like manner and the bidding tray is slid back again.

This procedure is continued until the auction is completed. It is considered desirable that players should vary the tempo randomly when returning the tray under the screen. It is the responsibility of North/South to make sure that the whole auction is visible on each side of the screen.

After all four players have had the opportunity to review the auction (equivalent to the right to have the auction restated) the players replace their bidding cards neatly in their respective bidding boxes.

At this point **a member of the declaring side (i.e. the presumed Dummy or Declarer)** removes the tray from the table leaving the board in the centre of the table where it should remain throughout the play.

The opening lead must be made before the aperture is opened and only Declarer or Dummy may open the aperture or call for it to be opened. At the end of play the tray is put back on the table.

After the opening lead is faced, the aperture is opened to permit all players to see Dummy's cards and cards played to each trick. If a defender exposes a card and because of the screen, Declarer does not see it, Dummy may draw attention to the irregularity.

When leading or following suit, **players must take care to always play cards in the same manner**, and quitted tricks must be placed vertically or horizontally in accordance with Law 65 to determine win/loss of that trick, and at an equal distance from the previous card.

3. Scoring

Cross-IMP scoring will be used.

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 Tournament Director (TD) will produce match records for each pair which will be deemed the Match Score. An error may be corrected if notified to the TD. For all matches in the trials, the correction period is fifteen (15) minutes from when the TD's printout is available.

If two pairs 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 pairs. If a tie still remains
- (3) The higher margin of IMPs earned against the next highest-ranking pair that both have played and so on.

Which failing, then by the toss of a coin.

If more than two pairs 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.

4. Alerting (WBF policy)

The following classes of calls should be alerted:

1. Conventional bids should be alerted, non-conventional bids should not.
2. Those bids which have special meanings or which are based on or lead to special understandings between the partners. (A player may not make a call or play based on special partnership understanding unless an opposing pair may reasonably be expected to understand its meaning, or unless their side discloses the use of such call or play in accordance with the regulations of the sponsoring organization). See Law 40(b).
3. Non-forcing jump changes of suit responses to opening bids or overcalls, and non-forcing new suit responses by an unpassed hand to opening bids of one of a suit.

5. Alerts and Explanations (BGB Regulations)

a. A player who makes an alertable call as defined in the WBF Alert Procedures must alert their screen-mate, and partner must alert on the other side of the screen when the bidding tray arrives there. The alert must be made by placing the Alert Card over the last call of the screen-mate, in their segment of the bidding tray; the alerted player must acknowledge by returning the Alert Card to their opponent. A player may, by written question, ask for an explanation of an opponent's call; the screen-mate then provides a written answer. Verbal explanations should be avoided if at all possible.

b. At any time during the Auction a player may request of their screen-mate, in writing, a full explanation of an opponent's call. The reply is also in writing.

c. At all times from the commencement of the Auction to the completion of play each player receives information only from their screen-mate about the meanings of calls and explanations given. Questions during the play period should be in writing with the aperture closed. The

screen is raised after the response has been made. Therefore, the TD cannot make enquiries on a player's behalf on the other side of the screen during the auction or play.

6. Late Arrival and Slow Play

Any Pair not seated and ready to play at the start of a session will cause their pair to be fined 1 VP and a further VP for every five (5) minutes thereafter. At the end of the allocated time the TD 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 IC may impose a more severe penalty. The penalties are per table and will be shared equally by both pairs 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 TD's findings of fact.

7. 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 pair 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 TD 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.

8. Substitutes

Subject to the permission of the IC, a player may be allowed to play an eligible substitute for up to two rounds in emergency circumstances. The IC may, in exceptional emergency circumstances, give permission to substitute for one extra round. A request for a substitute for what the IC 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 IC significantly affects the strength/weakness of a pair, is unlikely to be approved. If a suitable substitute cannot be found for a session, that pair will automatically concede a walk-over to the opposing pair. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the TD is empowered to make emergency substitutions.

9. Appeals: Review Procedure

Appeals will be heard by a "Reviewer" appointed by the IC. The time limit for seeking a review is 30 minutes after the ruling has been given and the cost is €50.

The Reviewer will check that the TD 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 TD was within the bounds of reasonableness.

The fact that the Reviewer might have determined a slightly different ruling would 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 TD 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: (1) Forfeiture of the monetary deposit; (2) VPs 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.

EXCEPTION: The bid always shows at least four cards in a known suit if it is weak. If the bid does not show a known four card suit it must show a hand a king or more over average strength. (Explanation: Where all the weak meanings show at least four cards in 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 2-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 2- or 3-level that may by agreement be made with 3 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:

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

7 September 2026