

Contract Bridge Association of Ireland

LADY MILNE TRIALS 2026 for LADY MILNE TROPHY 2027

Supplementary Information

Date: Friday 9 October to Sunday 11 October 2026.

Venue: Clayton Hotel, Leopardstown, Co Dublin

Entries for the **Lady Milne Trials 2026** have been received from eight teams as listed below.

The event will be run over **three days**

Number & Captain	Teams
1 KEATING	Anne Keating, Frances Kelly, Noreen Pender, Deirdre Tuckey
2 JAMES	Marie James, Adrienne Purdy, Fran Ronan, Pascale Wolfe
3 FINNEGAN	Leah Finnegan, Denise Walsh, Sheila Walsh, Klara Flanagan, Eve Connell
4 O'CONNOR	Maire O'Connor, Suzanne Hill, Mary Brady, Mary Timoney
5 KENNY	Joan Kenny, Jeannie Fitzgerald, Siobhan Part, Teresa Rigney
6 PENDER	Gilda Pender, Rebecca Brown, Ann-Marie Horan, Hilary McDonagh
7 PHELAN	Lucy Phelan, Louise Mitchell, Anna Carr, Margaret Farren, Anna Onishuk, Evgenia Gladysheva
8 VAUGHAN	Kathleen Vaughan, Maria Whelan, Eileen O'Donovan, Dolores Gilliland

The **EIGHT (8)** teams, as above, will play a 20-board full round robin over 3 days.

Each match will be played as a single 20 board stanza.

Each match will be allocated 2 hours and 50 minutes to play.

Round	Time	Matches
1	Fri 14:30 – 17:20	KEATING v PENDER, O'CONNOR v PHELAN JAMES v KENNY, FINNEGAN v VAUGHAN
2	Fri 17:40 – 20:30	FINNEGAN v JAMES, PHELAN v PENDER O'CONNOR v KEATING, VAUGHAN v KENNY
3	Sat 10:00 – 12:50	PENDER v O'CONNOR, KEATING v PHELAN KENNY v FINNEGAN, JAMES v VAUGHAN
Break	Sat 12:50 – 13:30	Lunch
4	Sat 13:30 – 16.20	PHELAN v KENNY, FINNEGAN v KEATING O'CONNOR v JAMES, VAUGHAN v PENDER
5	Sat 16:40 – 19:30	JAMES v PENDER, PHELAN v FINNEGAN KENNY v O'CONNOR, KEATING v VAUGHAN
6	Sun 10:00 – 12:50	PENDER v FINNEGAN, KENNY v KEATING

		JAMES v PHELAN, O'CONNOR v VAUGHAN
Break	Sun 12:50 – 13:30	Lunch
7	Sun 13:30 – 16:20	KEATING v JAMES, FINNEGAN v O'CONNOR
		PENDER v KENNY, VAUGHAN v PHELAN

System Cards

All pairs participating in these trials must have submitted their System Card to info@cbai.ie by **close of business on Friday October 2** 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. 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 System Card that, in the opinion of the TD, 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 must 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.

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.

The members of the winning team who have played at least 4 stanzas will be nominated to represent Ireland in the Lady Milne Trophy in 2027, which will be held over the weekend of 16-18 April in Wales.

If any selected team consists of four players, an additional pair will be added by the IC, from the pairs who played in these trials, following discussion with the captain of the winning team. A reserve pair will be chosen in the same way.

Captain

An NPC will be appointed by the IC, 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 IC assuming players are eligible to play in the trials.

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 TD 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.

International Committee:

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

21 September 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-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 Away team (i.e. the second named team in the schedule) seats their players first in each match.

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 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.

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 3 x 3 IMPs in any 20-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 the WBF scale. Scoring will be IMPs converted to VPs as per the WBF 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 TD will produce match records for each team 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 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 IC, a team of four players may be allowed to play an eligible substitute for up to two sessions (stanzas) in emergency circumstances. The IC may, in exceptional emergency circumstances, give permission to substitute for one extra session. 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 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 TD is empowered to make emergency substitutions. No substitute may be a member of another participating team in the trials.

8. 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 session in which the ruling was given has ended and a deposit of €50 is required.

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 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 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: (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.

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 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.

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

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.

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21 September 2026