



EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

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I am not going to present all Championships. Specifically, I'll leave out University, Jamboree and Small federations.

Other than those, the European Bridge League organizes regularly five different type of events:

- Teams Championships (TC) divided in three categories, open, women and seniors.
- Open Championships (OC) divided in four categories, mixed, open, women and seniors, each of them awarding two titles, pairs and teams.
- Youth Teams Championships (YTC), divided in three categories, Under 26, Under 21 and Girls.
- Youth Pairs Championships (YPC) divided (if possible) in three categories, Under 26, Under 21 and Girls.
- Champions Cup (CC).

1. TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS

1.1 General information

This event is organized in even years, and other than the title of European Teams Champion, and the respective gold, silver and bronze medals, as WBF's Zonal Championship awards six berths in each category to Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup and D'Orsi Senior Bowl.

1.2 History

Originally held in Scheveningen, The Netherlands, in 1932, the European Bridge Team Championships became the principal competition organized by the European Bridge League for teams representing the member countries. It started as a single series competition for open teams, but in 1935, a women teams series was added. The senior series became part of the competition much later, in 1995.

Was originally scheduled every year, up to 1971 (with an interval from 1939 to 1947 due to the II World War), then every two years, like now, but held in odd years up to 2001.

The first European champions, back in 1932, were Austria, who also won the first women event in 1935. The first senior champions, Poland, were declared 30 years later. All in all, **Italy** has won most gold medals in the *open* series (20 against France's 8 and England's 7), while **England** and **France** prevail in the women (with 13 gold medals), (third is Denmark's

with 6), and **France** in the seniors (with 3 gold medals, against Poland's 2 and Denmark's 1).

1.3 Time of the Year

The event is usually held in June, either on the 3rd and 4th (normally), or the 2nd and 3rd week. That time is not mandatory, however, it fits with all the European NBOs' competitions and the WBF's calendar. September might be an alternative.

1.4 Location's requirements

Even though touristic attractions are always welcome, this is not a mandatory characteristic for this Championship. However, the place needs to have enough Hotel's rooms at any rate (we usually expect the presence of about 1000 people across the play's period, including players, captains, coaches, NBOs' officials and spectators, with small variations along the way), from two stars to five, and to be easily reachable from everywhere in Europe, therefore to be close to an international airport, and to be well served by trains.

1.5 Format

Up to Warsaw 2006, the three categories consisted of a straight Round Robin, however, starting with Pau 2008, the Open was split in a qualification and a final, still keeping the Round Robin principle in both phases.

Originally spread over two weeks, in 2008, each qualifying team met again in the second round robin with the teams it had met in the qualifying round, and the result of the first match did no longer matter. That way, two weeks were still needed.

In 2010, this did not happen. Qualified teams carried over to the second round robin the entire result of their qualifying matches, and these matches were not played again. Accordingly, the duration of the Championships was reduced by three days, allowing it to start on Tuesday instead of the usual Saturday.

The number of boards per match decreased during the years, originally just to cope with the increasing number of participants, then also in accordance with the general request of less heavy schedules.

In the Open and Women, matches are now of 20 boards, while 16 deals per match are played by the Seniors.

1.6 Requirements

1.6.1 Venue

The space needed is calculated on the basis of 20 to 25 m² per table. The maximum number of tables playing simultaneously depends by the entries, however, here are the highest possible figures:

40 Open teams

29 Women Teams

23 Seniors Teams

This adds up to 92 teams, or a least 1840 m², however, you have also to add the space needed for the BBO cabins. They are between 12 and 16, and need some extra space than a normal table due to the operator's desk and some partition. Let's say between 300 and 350 m².

Further than that, you need some corridor somewhere to make easier for officials to move through the room and, specially, to carry boards in and out. Then a couple of desks for scoring stations, a least of two lots per room for water fountains, some table for personal score cards (one per room is the minimum), and you have to take care of security exits, power cabins, fire stations and so forth.

You need, then, a minimum of further 100 m².

All in all, between 2200 and 2300 m².

Since all tables need to be put in neat rows and columns, pillars, as well as other impedimenta may force you to spread tables in a more space consuming way, and that has also to be taken into account.

Preferably - it makes the operations simpler - that space is a single room, eventually evenly split in two as Open and Closed rooms, however this happens rarely, but two rooms of adequate size, not too far each other, do the job.

Other than the playing area, you also need:

- Vu Graph Teathre, big enough to accommodate about 200 spectators, plus the commentators desk, plus 4 or 5 screens to project onto.
- A Duplication Room, of no less than 30 m², with a big central table good for 4 to 6 operators, and shelves all around.

- A Main Office, usually used as IT storage as well, as big as the Duplication room, but with just a long table next to a wall. Main office and duplication need to be next each other, and as close as possible to the playing area.
- A Secretariat, big enough for three to five working stations (desks), a copy machine and some shelf for piling up documents and other stuff.
- A President Office, with a main desk, some extra table, and, possibly, furniture for meetings.
- A Meeting Room, with a big, central table, for Executive, as well as other Committees meetings. A screen for projection is needed. Secretariat, President and Meeting rooms need to be next each other (specially the former ones).
- If it is not possible to accommodate the IT storage into the Main Office, a IT Storage Room.
- A storage place, to put all the stuff when it comes, and to put things like empty boxes (cards, screens, others) during the Championship. As big as possible, but no less than 150 m².
- One Appeals Committee Room available at any time, plus another one available on request.

The venue needs to be totally wired (LAN), and to have the possibility to get Internet access at a minimum speed of 3Mb. Power supplies need also to be available all over, and the power needs to be 220 Volts.

1.6.2 Personnel

The EBL has its own stable staff for the most delicate operations, however, some extra people is required to be provided by the host:

- Two Assistant Tournament Directors. Whenever possible they should be EBL TDs or, at the very least, they ought to have participated to some EBL's TDs Course.
- Four duplicators.
- Six caddies.
- an On Site organizer, as link to the EBL's Operations Director (Championship's Manager).

- Some people - usually four to six - to unload the trucks when coming, and load them when leaving. The job needed includes mounting the tables, spreading all the stuff around the venue, and recollecting it. However, when it comes to any electronic, the latter job is done by our technicians. If possible, those people should be the caddies themselves.
- Enough BBO Operators, therefore 12 to 16. However, since most operators are not able to work all day, every day, that number should be 15 to 19, to allow some rotation.
- A BBO Manager, who is responsible for the other operators' working schedule. He/she might well be one of the operators.
- One stable registration clerk, plus three more to help before the start.
- All those people, or, at least, the main ones, should be able to speak English (mandatory for TDs, Registration and On Site Organizer).

1.6.3 Equipment

The EBL owns almost everything needed for any Championship, however, some equipment must, mandatory, be found on site, provided by the Host. Anyhow, whatever can be found on site, makes less heavy the final EBL's expenses list, and, therefore, can change the conditions of the deal signed. Here's the list of the mandatory stuff:

- Two copy machines - a main one and a back up one - for the Daily Bulletin (if the Bulletin is to be printed outside, by some company, they are not required anymore). Those machines have to be very fast (on market, the fastest make up to 120 page per minute, but an 105, or even 80 ppm does the job). They need to be able to print on A3, then staple the pages on the middle, and fold them up. They also need to be used through the network.
- A fast colour copy machine for the Main Office, able to print A3 and connectable to the network.

- Two more copy machines, one necessarily colour, both connectable to the network, for the scoring team, and the secretariat (the latter need to have a sorter).
- A further fast copy machine (not colour) for the Main Office is not mandatory, but very welcome.
- Water Fountains.
- Four projectors.
- Stuff not mandatory, but very welcome:
 - 120 Bridgemates II.
 - 4 Bridgemate Servers.
 - 12 42inches Plasma Screens
 - 120 tables with screens.
 - 3 more projectors.
 - 20 to 30 low profile computers, to be used to control Plasmas and Projectors and for some other low profile job.
 - 10 laser printers with spare toner cartridges.

1.6.4 Other requirements

- An opening ceremony followed by a cocktail.
- A closing ceremony followed by a Victory Banquet.
- Accommodation in Bed & Breakfast basis for the staff and the EBL Executive. This includes:
 - A suite for the EBL's President
 - 15 Superior Rooms for single or double occupancy
 - Enough rooms to accommodate the staff, possibly as single occupancy, but few doubles may be acceptable.
 - Championship's bags for all the participants and officials, with a pen, some notepad, useful information about the city, a map and some gifts.

1.7 Alternatives to the format

As previously said, during the years a strong request to change the format has been put to the EBL, and, specially, about the length of the Open Series.

Keeping the actual number of boards per match, curtailing the event any further is basically impossible, however, changing that number, we might be able to squeeze the whole event into eight days.

Playing matches of 16 boards, four matches per day are possible. Here is a schedule:

10.00 - 12.20

13.30 - 15.50

16.10 - 18.30

18.50 - 21.10

or, shortening the lunch break (usually a solution fancied by the players, who don't like long breaks)

10.00 - 12.20

13.00 - 15.20

15.40 - 18.00

18.20 - 20.40

However, 14 boards per match would give us a better time schedule:

10.00 - 12.00

13.00 - 15.00

15.20 - 17.20

17.40 - 19.40

Once more, shortening the lunch break is possible:

10.00 - 12.00

12.40 - 14.40

15.00 - 17.00

17.20 - 19.20

This would make possible to play the full preliminary Round Robin in five days, and the final one in three days.

At the same time, it is suitable for Women and Seniors as well (with the present numbers, Women would complete the Championship in 8 days, while the Seniors would need only 6).

It would also make possible to have the three event going on at the same time (if we don't want the Seniors to start two days later, we might easily toy with the schedule, some day playing less matches) and, what is more important (is a request often made), it would make possible to have a final ceremony all together.

But such a schedule is flexible, and it leaves space for a free day in the middle, or whatever break might be needed.

A shorter Championships, so often asked for, saves money for the EBL, the Host and the NBOs, but, of course, someone may feel as a technical disadvantage the shorter length of the match.

Further than that, a shorter Championship makes the event less attractive for the playing place, therefore more difficult to negotiate good rates for venues, hotels and so forth.

You have to evaluate pros and contras, and it may be the case to discuss once more whether to split the Open series into an "A" and a "B" group likewise many other sports.

2. OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

2.1 General information

This is the newest European competition, and one that differs rather radically from all the rest. It was established in 2003 as a competition open to all players, including – for the first time – even non-Europeans. Transnational combinations are allowed, and there are no restrictive quotas for any nation.

The 'European Open', as it is casually called, includes pair and team tournaments in each of the four categories: open, women, seniors and mixed. It has absorbed a number of existing championships, namely, the European (Open & Senior) Pairs Championships, the European Women Pairs Championship (for the Anna Maria Torlontano Cup) and the European Mixed Championships (Teams & Pairs).

The *European Open* is held every odd-numbered year.

2.2 History

There have been five editions to date, starting with Menton 2003, followed by Tenerife (2005), Antalya (2007), San Remo (2009) and Poznan (2011).

2.3 Time of the Year

The event is usually held in June, either on the 3rd and 4th (normally), or the 2nd and 3rd week. That time is not mandatory, however, it fits with all the European NBOs' competitions schedule, as well as with the WBF's and the other zones' calendar. September might be an alternative.

2.4 Location's requirements

The place needs to have as many touristic attractions as possible. Actually, four times out of five the Championship was held in famous sea resorts, and once in a very attractive historical site.

Enough Hotel's rooms at any rate are needed (the number of people per night is much more volatile than in the Teams Championship, with players moving in and out, however, we usually expect the presence of a total of more than 3000 people across the play's period, mostly players, with few captains, coaches, NBOs' officials and spectators), from two stars to five, and to be easily reachable from everywhere in Europe, therefore to be close to an international airport, and to be well served by trains.

2.5 Format

All Pairs competitions are scheduled to be played in three stages: a qualification, a semifinal and a final. The semifinal is split in A and B, where B is a second chance for pairs knocked out of the qualification.

However, due to organizing problems related to the small number of entries, in Women and Seniors the format has varied during the years; often the Semifinal stage has been canceled, making the events a two stages ones.

Open, Women and Seniors Pairs, have always played Howell Barometer finals, while for Mixed Pairs that format was introduced just last year in Poznan.

All teams competition are scheduled to be played in three stages, likewise Pairs: the qualification is a Round Robin, then a Swiss semifinal (once more divided in A and B), then a KO stage for 32 teams.

Even in Teams, the number of entries has usually affected the format of Women and Seniors. Both series have usually played a qualification Round Robin, immediately followed by the KO stage.

Here are the details of the last edition:

2.5.1 Teams Competitions

i) GENERAL:

In the Qualifying stages the results of each match shall be converted into victory Points in accordance with the WBF victory point scale.

In the Swiss stage, errors in assigning opponents shall not invalidate the result of that or any other matches.

ii) OPEN AND MIXED TEAMS

The teams are divided in groups of 8 in the open, and groups of 6 in the mixed, and play a complete Round-robin of 10 boards. The teams will be assigned to the different groups by the Championship

Committee (based on the WBF/EBL masterpoints of the top four members of each team), to seek an equal and well-balanced subdivision of the groups and taking into account, whenever possible, that teams from the same NBO do not play each other.

- iii) Semi-Final stage: At the end of the Round-robin the first 3 teams from each group in the open, and first 2 teams from each group in the mixed, will qualify for Swiss A and the other teams for Swiss B. (In case of odd number of groups in the open, the best 4th team will be chosen according to the following criteria: a. VPs scored against the top three b. IMP quotient c. IMP balance.) In the Open teams the team ranked 1st in each section will receive a carryover of 3 VP and the team ranked 2nd a carryover of 1 VP. In the mixed teams the team ranked first in each section will receive a carryover of 2 VPs. The teams will play a Swiss competition of 7 rounds in the open (5 rounds in the mixed) of 10 boards each. The matches for the 1st round in the Swiss are randomly chosen (without taking into account the carryover VPs) except that teams will not meet teams from their qualifying group and 1st ranked teams will not meet 1st ranked teams.
- iv) The first 27 teams of Swiss A and the first 5 teams of Swiss B will qualify for the K.O. phase without a carry-over.
- v) The K.O. matches will be played over 28 boards (2 sessions of 14 boards), except the Final which will be played over 48 boards (3 sessions of 16 boards). In the Open Teams, the losing semi-finalists will play 32 boards (2 sessions of 16 boards) to determine 3rd place for the Bronze medal. In the Mixed Teams, both losing semi-finalists will be awarded the bronze medal.
- vi) For the KO stage, teams not in the first eight rankings in the Swiss A are re-ranked from 9-32 according to seeding based on WBF/EBL masterpoints. The teams ranked 1-8 in the Swiss A, in order, each pick a team from the rest of the teams seeded 9 to 32. After these first eight choices, the remaining bracket is automatically formed using the seeding of the remaining teams.

2.5.2 Pairs Competitions

i) General

The pairs events in all categories (Open, Women, Senior, and Mixed) shall consist of 3 stages Qualifying, Semi-final, and Final (however, in Women and Seniors the small number of entries may lead to the cancellation of the Semi-Final stage). The qualifying and semi-final stages will consist of sessions of 10 boards to be played in two-board rounds. For each pair, the match-point score for each session is converted to a percentage score. (If different sessions are of different number of boards, the percentage scores will be adjusted by applying

an appropriate factor.). There will be 10 sessions in the Open Pairs and 7 sessions in the Mixed pairs.

For purposes of Law 12C2, (awarding of Average+ and Average -) a session is defined as a stage, and contains all the sessions in that stage.

Depending on number of entries, the format of the Ladies and Seniors pairs may be different from that described above. Regulations will be published as soon as the information is available.

ii) Qualifying Sessions

- Scoring in Qualifying sessions will be “over the field” in match-points converted to a percentage;
- Depending on total entries and technical requirements approx. 140 pairs (100 in the mixed) plus drop-ins (see Section 4) will qualify for the Semi-final A and the rest for the Semi-final B: the exact number will be decided and announced right after the start of each event;

iii) Semi-final A

- There shall be no carry-forward score from the qualifying sessions;
- Scoring in Semi-final A shall be “over the field” in match-points converted to a percentage;
- Up to 46 pairs (including drop-ins) will qualify for Final A, and the remaining pairs will play in Final B (NOTE: Pairs must register to play in Final B)

iv) Semi-final B

- There shall be no carry-forward score from the qualifying sessions;
- Scoring in Semi-final B shall be “over the field” in match-points converted to a percentage;
- The top 6 pairs will qualify for Final A and the rest will play in Final B. (NOTE: Pairs must register to play in Final B)

v) Final A

- The qualifying pairs shall play the Final A;
- There shall be no carry-forward score from the Semi-finals
- Scoring in Final “A” shall be “over the field” in match-points converted to a percentage.

vi) Final B

- Pairs must register to play in Final B

- The remaining pairs from Semi- finals A and B shall play in Final B;
- There shall be no carry-forward score from Semi-finals;
- There will be 5 sessions of 10 boards each and scoring shall be the total “over the field” in match-points converted to a percentage;

2.5.3 Women and Seniors Teams

Due to the small number of entries, the format of those two events forcibly differed from Mixed and Open.

In both cases, the teams were divided in two groups: 12 teams per group by the Women, and 10 (with a bye) by the Seniors. The full Round Robin - 16 and 20 boards per match respectively - qualified the top four teams per group to the quarterfinals. The three following KO matches, QF, SF and Final, were all played over 48 boards.

2.5.4 Women and Seniors Pairs

Once more, the number of entries - 49 Women Pairs and 47 Seniors - forced a different format than for Open and Mixed. Being impossible to organize a proper semifinal (with 22 Pairs qualifying to the Final, splitting the qualification in two was impossible, or, otherwise, Semifinal A would have qualified to the Final non less than 75% of its pairs!) the event was reduced to a two stages one.

A kind of "all play all twice" movement was used (a combination of some Mitchell and some Howell movement), still, to avoid too many triple meetings (doubles were mandatory), and to meet a specific request by nearly all the participants (there was a formal, specific request of the Seniors Committee) who were asking for some time off, it was necessary to cut off two sessions of 10 boards each.

At the end, 22 pairs qualified to the Final, which was played as a Barometer Howell (Endless Howell), four boards per round.

2.5.5 DROP-INS FOR PAIRS EVENTS

1. For all Series a pair composed of 2 players, both EBL or WBF Grand Masters, may be allowed to drop into the Semi-Final provided that pair registered its entry at the stipulated time.
2. For all series, drop-ins will be allowed into the qualification stage of the relevant pairs events from pairs formed by a player eliminated in a Teams stage, playing with any WBF/EBL Master; and into the semi-final stage of the Mixed Pairs playing with any WBF/EBL Grand Master, provided that

pair registered its entry at the stipulated time. These pairs will be awarded a carry-over taking into account the final number of pairs participating to the relevant stage, and the number of pairs qualifying to the next one. The precise formula will be published on site in due time.

3. Certain pairs composed of players from teams qualified and playing the K.O. matches in each Teams competition, provided that they have already registered their entries at the stipulated time, will be exempted from playing certain sessions in the respective Pairs events, according to the criteria in Subsections 4d, 4e and 4f.

a) Mixed Teams:

i) The Pairs composed of losers from the round of 32 and round of 16 will be admitted to the semi-final A of the Mixed Pair competition;

ii) The Pairs composed of losers from the quarter-final and Semi-final will be admitted to session 3 of semi-final A of the Mixed Pair competition. These pairs will be awarded a carry-over taking into account the final number of pairs participating to the relevant stage, and the number of pairs qualifying to the next one. The precise formula will be published on site in due time.

iii) The Pairs composed of players playing the Final will be admitted to the first session of the Final of the Mixed Pairs competition;

iv) In addition to the above, a pair composed of only one player who has fulfilled the above-mentioned requirements may be allowed to drop into the final of the mixed Pairs Competition provided that:

I. The pair has already registered its entry at the stipulated time;

II. The partner of the entitled player must have the title of World or European Grand Master.

The Championship Committee will assess each individual case and has the right to refuse the drop-in.

b) Open Teams:

i) The Pairs composed of losers from the round of 32 and round of 16 will be admitted to session 6 of the qualifying stage of the Open Pairs Competition. These pairs will be awarded a carry-over taking into account the final number of

pairs participating to the relevant stage, and the number of pairs qualifying to the next one. The precise formula will be published on site in due time.

ii) The Pairs composed of losers from the quarter-final will be admitted to semi-final A of the Open Pairs Competition.

iii) The Pairs composed of players playing the Final and the playoff for the bronze medal will be admitted to Session 6 of the Semi final A of the Open Pairs Competition. These pairs will be awarded a carry-over taking into account the final number of pairs participating to the relevant stage, and the number of pairs qualifying to the next one. The precise formula will be published on site in due time.

iv) In addition to the above, a pair composed of only one player who has fulfilled the above-mentioned requirements may be allowed to drop into the relevant stage but not the final of the open Pairs Competition provided that:

I. The pair has already registered its entry at the stipulated time;

II. The partner of the entitled player must have the title of World or European Grand Master.

c) Women's and Senior Teams:

Drop-in regulations, which are dependent on the number of entries, will be published on site as soon as the relevant information is available.

d) Final assessments

In all series, the carry over awarded to the pairs dropping in was the percentage needed to qualify. Therefore, they were required to score no less than that over the rounds they played.

2.5.6 Comment to the Drop In Regulations

Drop In Regulations have always been a nightmare for all organizers, since there are few critical points:

i) Who should be allowed to drop in, meaning whether to give wild cards to some category and which ones, or not at all;

ii) At what stage the pairs dropping in should be allowed to do so;

iii) Which carry over should be awarded to the pairs dropping in.

Over the years, both WBF and EBL - not to say other organizations - have tried several different solutions, always making someone unhappy.

As for the first two points, what is certain, is that the most recent orientation, supported by many official letters received by all organizations, is to dramatically reduce privileges once offered to top players, or to players who have reached the late stage of the equivalent teams event. In other words, the general request - other than, quite obviously, by the players who were holding those privileges - is that anyone should be requested to earn the right to qualify by playing, and not by other means.

Accordingly, the EBL has re modulate the various events, in a way that was always possible for the players playing a late stage of the teams to drop into some qualification stage of the pairs. In other words, no pair was allowed to drop into the final.

Actually, this was not true for the Mixed Pairs, because the schedule didn't allow it. However, only the finalists of the Teams, and not, as before, also the losers of the semi finals, were allowed to drop in. Even so, those drop ins were not welcome, and there were protests about it.

Further than that, the privilege to not play the qualification was restricted to Grand Masters only, and not to any Master as before. Also, players knocked out from the Teams events, were allowed to drop in only partnering one of their teammates or, as an alternative, a Grand Master. This was to avoid the previously common use for professionals, to drop in forming a new partnership with a sponsor, an habit that has irritated nearly everybody.

The most critical point, however, is the third.

There's no any mathematical solution to the calculation of a fair carry over (or, at least, this is what was said by top class mathematicians through the years), therefore the solution is purely matter of policy.

Should we give any advantage to the pairs dropping in? And if yes, what is an advantage (what percentage does represent it)? If not, should we be just fair? And, once more, if yes what is to be fair?

This time, to answer the second and fourth question there's some mathematic to help us or, better, some statistic. Studying the ranking of about 20 different WBF and EBL Championship, it is

possible to get an approximate percentage needed to qualify to some spot (meaning some percentage of the field).

If you want to be fair, that one should be the percentage to be awarded, however, the critic might be: " that percentage was not enough in the given event".

At the end, the decision was to not give any advantage - following the general policy to avoid privileges - and to award the percentage needed to qualify, calculated, then, only at the end of the phase.

2.6 Requirements

2.6.1 Venue

Calculating the space for this event is not at all easy. The number of entries expected is obviously the most critical point, however, it is not the only one.

To start with, the required number of square meters per table is generally around 10. "Generally", because this applies to the qualification stage of any event, but not to the KO stage of the Teams, or to the Finals of the Pairs.

Further than that, with different events played at the same time, often with different time schedule and format, it must be possible separate those events, therefore we ought to have a space easily divisible, and, possibly, each space should be sound proof.

In other words, the requirements for the venue should be tailored once known the expected number of entries, and this heavily depends by the number of locals expected (the number of out comers is quite stable).

However, just to give an example, here are the figures in the last Championship:

Event	Poznan
Mixed Teams	90
Mixed Pairs	275
Opens Teams	119
Open Pairs	323
Women Teams	24
Women Pairs	49
Seniors Teams	19
Seniors Pairs	47

The highest number of square meters needed, was therefore (due to events played at the same time) equal to:

323 Open Pairs (10 m² per table, times 162 = 1620) + 49 Women Pairs (10 m² per table, times 25 = 250) + 46 Seniors Pairs (10 m² per table, times 23 = 230) + 32 Open Teams (20 m² per table, times 32 = 320) + 8 Women Teams (20 m² per table, times 8 = 80) + 8 Seniors Teams (20 m² per table, times 8 = 80) + 16 BBO tables (25 m² per table, times 16 = 400) = 234 tables, 2980 m².

Further than that, for each event, you need some corridor somewhere to make easier for officials to move through the room and, specially, to carry boards in and out. Then a couple of desks for scoring stations, a least of two lots per room for water fountains, some table for personal score cards (one per room is the minimum), and you have to take care of security exits, power cabins, fire stations and so forth.

Since all tables need to be put in neat rows and columns, pillars, as well as other impedimenta may force you to spread tables in a more space consuming way, and that has also to be taken into account.

Do not forget, also, that you need to separate each event from the other (well, you may place all the KO in the same room, but you need to divide the Open from the Closed room).

All in all, you will need no less than 4000 m², provided that the whole space is easy to be managed.

Other than the playing area, you also need:

- Vu Graph Teathre, big enough to accommodate about 50 to 80 spectators (since almost everybody is playing, spectators are much less than in the Teams Championships), plus the commentators desk, plus 2 screens to project onto.
- A Duplication Room, of no less than 40 m², with a big central table good for 6 to 8 operators, and shelves all around.
- A Main Office, usually used as IT storage as well, as big as the Duplication room, but with just a long table next to a wall. Main office and duplication need to be next each other, and as close as possible to the playing area.

- A Secretariat, big enough for three to five working stations (desks), a copy machine and some shelf for piling up documents and other stuff.
- A President Office, with a main desk, some extra table, and, possibly, furniture for meetings.
- A Meeting Room, with a big, central table, for Executive, as well as other Committees meetings. A screen for projection is needed. Secretariat, President and Meeting rooms need to be next each other (specially the former ones).
- If it is not possible to accommodate the IT storage into the Main Office, a IT Storage Room.
- A storage place, to put all the stuff when it comes, and to put things like empty boxes (cards, screens, others) during the Championship. As big as possible, but no less than 250 m².
- One Appeals Committee Room available at any time, plus another one available on request.

The venue needs to be totally wired (LAN), and to have the possibility to get Internet access at a minimum speed of 3Mb. Power supplies need also to be available all over, and the power needs to be 220 Volts.

2.6.2 Personnel

The EBL has its own stable staff for the most delicate operations, however, some extra people is required to be provided by the host:

- Four Assistant Tournament Directors. Whenever possible they should be EBL TDs or, at the very least, they ought to have participated to some EBL's TDs Course.
- Six duplicators.
- Ten caddies.
- an On Site organizer, as link to the EBL's Operations Director (Championship's Manager).
- Some people - usually four to six - to unload the trucks when coming, and load them when leaving. The job needed includes mounting the tables, spreading all the stuff around the venue, and recollecting it. However, when it comes to any electronic, the latter job is done by our

technicians. If possible, those people should be the caddies themselves.

- Enough BBO Operators, therefore 12 to 16. However, since most operators are not able to work all day, every day, that number should be 15 to 19, to allow some rotation.
- A BBO Manager, who is responsible for the other operators' working schedule. He/she might well be one of the operators.
- Three stable registration clerk, plus two more to help before the start.
- All those people, or, at least, the main ones, should be able to speak English (mandatory for TDs, Registration and On Site Organizer).

2.6.3 Equipment

The EBL owns almost everything needed for any Championship, however, some equipment must, mandatory, be found on site, provided by the Host. Anyhow, whatever can be found on site, makes less heavy the final EBL's expenses list, and, therefore, can change the conditions of the deal signed. Here's the list of the mandatory stuff:

- Two copy machines - a main one and a back up one - for the Daily Bulletin (if the Bulletin is to be printed outside, by some company, they are not required anymore). Those machines have to be very fast (on market, the fastest make up to 120 page per minute, but an 105, or even 80 ppm does the job). They need to be able to print on A3, then staple the pages on the middle, and fold them up. They also need to be used through the network.
- A fast colour copy machine for the Main Office, able to print A3 and connectable to the network.
- Two more copy machines, one necessarily colour, both connectable to the network, for the scoring team, and the secretariat (the latter need to have a sorter).
- A further fast copy machine (not colour) for the Main Office is not mandatory, but very welcome.
- Water Fountains.
- Four projectors.

Stuff not mandatory, but very welcome:

- 300 Bridgemates II.
- 8 Bridgemate Servers.
- 18 42inches Plasma Screens
- 300 tables with screens.
- 3 more projectors.
- 20 to 30 low profile computers, to be used to control Plasmas and Projectors and for some other low profile job.
- 16 laser printers with spare toner cartridges.

2.6.4 Other requirements

- An opening ceremony followed by a cocktail.
- A closing ceremony followed by a Victory Banquet.
- Accommodation in Bed & Breakfast basis for the staff and the EBL Executive. This includes:
 - A suite for the EBL's President
 - 15 Superior Rooms for single or double occupancy
 - Enough rooms to accommodate the staff, possibly as single occupancy, but few doubles may be acceptable.
 - Championship's bags for all the participants and officials, with a pen, some notepad, useful information about the city, a map and some gifts.

2.7 Alternatives to the format

2.7.1 Mixed and Open Teams

Through the years, the most important criticisms involved:

- i) length of KO matches
- ii) format of the qualification and the semi final; specifically, the limited number of matches.

Obviously, anything is possible, but there is the need to cope with the time problem, unless we are ready to spread the event over more days.

It is true that over the years has been proven that many top teams have been knocked out on early stages. Actually, seven rounds of qualification, and then seven of Semi Final, look too less to sort out the best possible field for the KO stage.

A possible alternative could be to cut off the semi final, and play just a longer qualification. Then, a further question: should we divide the field in groups - like it is done for the Rosenblum Cup - or should we play a Swiss, like in the WBF transnational events?

Whatever the answer, this would still leave us the same number of days in the Mixed, therefore, to have longer KO matches the only possible solution is to limit to 16 the number of teams qualifying to the KO stage. Actually, the WBF Transnational qualifies 8 teams through a 15 rounds Swiss, up to 120 teams, or 16 whenever the number is bigger, and there was never a complaint about it.

Another effort could be made playing matches of 32 boards - twice sixteen - instead of 28. It means to end at about 21.00 instead of 20.00.

However, cutting the qualified teams to 16, a different solution would be possible:

- Round of 16 over 32 boards (two segment on day one of the KO)
- Quarter Finals and Semi Finals over 48 boards (two segments of the QF on day one, plus one segment on day two; the SF on day two)
- Final over 64 (or 56) boards.

A further suggestion is to play the Final over 64 or 56 instead of the 48 we played until now.

2.7.2 Women and Seniors Teams

The format in Poznan was excellent (but a mistake of the scoring team caused a wrong seeding in the Women). A full, long Round Robin, followed by QF, SF and a Final all over 48 boards.

The only critic received was about the play-off for the bronze medal. However, due to the time schedule, there was no technical reason not to play it, and it is played everywhere else in EBL and WBF events. In other words, asking for a day off was, once more, asking for a privilege.

The only point could be an earlier drop of the losers into the Pairs events.

2.7.3 Open and Mixed Pairs

The format adopted in Poland, with sessions of 10 boards, is by far the best technical solution. However, in Poznan the breaks were too long (40 minutes). It was said that 10 minutes are

enough, but that statement doesn't take into account the enormous amount of job required to carry boards in and out. 20 minutes is the least, and only provided that are enough caddies (in Poznan we had problems even with 40 minutes). Still, it saves 40 minutes for the day, and shortening the lunch break - once more a general request - could allow us to save a full hour (but we need to have food available at a comfortable distance).

As for drop in regulations - the critical point as already pointed out - discussion is open to any suggestion.

2.7.4 Women and Seniors Pairs

The most difficult events. Due to the small numbers, over the years has always been necessary to use different formats, to toy with movements and to arrange special time schedule.

There is nothing we can do about the Women, however, for the Seniors a very good solution could be represented by taking away the Seniors events from the Open Championships, and organize a standalone event (see the proposal of the Seniors Committee).

Anyway, the events were smooth in Poland, but, as anticipated, there were the usual problems about drop ins.

Particularly, the finalists of the Seniors Teams asked to be dispensed to play the qualification, dropping into the Pairs' Final straight away.

That request clashes with the common feeling about it - you have to take into account that there would have been six places taken, out of the only 22 available.

Obviously, playing the Devil's advocate role, you may say that they had earned that right.

My feeling is that 90% of the field would not agree.

2.8 The Prize Money

The EBL has always distributed money prizes in this event, however, despite being a quite heavy solution for the EBL finances, many players don't even know those prizes exists, and, certainly, nobody comes just for the purpose of winning them.

In Poznan, we had to send many prizes, because the players, not knowing about them, didn't show up in time.

Therefore, we should consider the case of canceling those prizes.

3. YOUTH TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS

3.1 General information

This event, which now comprises the categories Under 26, Under 21 and Girls, is nowadays organized in odd years, but was organized in even years up to 2004. Other than the title of European Teams Champion, and the respective gold, silver and bronze medals, as WBF's Zonal Championship awards six berths to the respective World Youth Teams Championship in the Under 26 and Under 21 series. Four berths in the Girls.

3.2 History

The competition was founded by EBL Youth Committee Chairman André Boekhorst in 1968 when the first event was held in Prague, capital of Czechoslovakia at the time, with the *Juniors* series only. It has continued as a biennial event held every even-numbered year ever since. In 1994, EBL Youth Committee Chairman Panos Gerontopoulos proposed the establishment of the *Youngsters* series to accommodate younger players. The Girls series was added in 2004.

3.3 Time of the Year

The event is usually held in July, starting on the first or the second week, over 10 or 12 days. That time is not mandatory, however, it fits with all the European NBOs' competitions and the WBF's calendar. Any time in July or August is possible, but only provided it fits with the other competitions' calendar.

3.4 Location's requirements

Even though touristic attractions are always welcome, this is not a mandatory characteristic for this Championship. However, the place needs to have enough Hotel's rooms.

A four or five stars Hotel is needed for officials, whereas the teams usually ask for cheaper accommodations.

Three or two stars Hotels, and even University Campus are requested. They should have triple or even quadruple rooms, an accommodation often asked for.

It is extremely important to have the possibility to get a full board accommodation for the participants.

3.5 Format

A straight Round Robin in all categories. However, due to the small number of entries, the Girls usually play longer matches (in the last Championships Under 26 and Under 21 played over 20 boards, while Girls played over 32).

3.6 Requirements

3.6.1 Venue

The space needed is calculated on the basis of 20 to 25 m² per table. The maximum number of tables playing simultaneously depends by the entries, however, here are the highest possible figures:

26 Under 26 teams

18 Under 21 Teams

14 Girls Teams

This adds up to 58 teams, or a least 1160 m², however, you have also to add the space needed for the BBO cabins. They are between 4 and 8, and need some extra space than a normal table due to the operator's desk and some partition. Let's say between 200 and 250 m².

Further than that, you need some corridor somewhere to make easier for officials to move through the room and, specially, to carry boards in and out. Then a couple of desks for scoring stations, a least of two lots per room for water fountains, some table for personal score cards (one per room is the minimum), and you have to take care of security exits, power cabins, fire stations and so forth.

You need, then, a minimum of further 100 m².

All in all, between 1400 and 1500 m².

Since all tables need to be put in neat rows and columns, pillars, as well as other impedimenta may force you to spread tables in a more space consuming way, and that has also to be taken into account.

Preferably - it makes the operations simpler - that space is a single room, eventually evenly split in two as Open and Closed rooms, however this happens rarely, but two rooms of adequate size, not too far each other, do the job.

Other than the playing area, you also need:

- Vu Graph Teathre, big enough to accommodate about 100 spectators, plus the commentators desk, plus 2 or 4 screens to project onto.
- A Duplication Room, of no less than 20 m², with a big central table good for 2/3 operators, and shelves all around.
- A Main Office, usually used as IT storage as well, as big as the Duplication room, but with just a long table next to

a wall. Main office and duplication need to be next each other, and as close as possible to the playing area.

- A Secretariat, big enough for 1/2 working stations (desks), a copy machine and some shelf for piling up documents and other stuff.
- A President Office, with a main desk, some extra table, and, possibly, furniture for meetings.
- A Meeting Room, with a big, central table. A screen for projection is welcome. Secretariat, President and Meeting rooms need to be next each other (specially the former ones).
- If it is not possible to accommodate the IT storage into the Main Office, a IT Storage Room.
- A storage place, to put all the stuff when it comes, and to put things like empty boxes (cards, screens, others) during the Championship. As big as possible, but no less than 100 m².
- One Appeals Committee Room available on request.

The venue needs to be totally wired (LAN), and to have the possibility to get Internet access at a minimum speed of 3Mb. Power supplies need also to be available all over, and the power needs to be 220 Volts.

3.6.2 Personnel

The EBL has its own stable staff for the most delicate operations, however, some extra people is required to be provided by the host:

- One Assistant Tournament Directors. Whenever possible he/she should be EBL TDs or, at the very least, ought to have participated to some EBL's TDs Course.
- Four caddies.
- an On Site organizer, as link to the EBL's Operations Director (Championship's Manager).
- Some people - usually four to six - to unload the trucks when coming, and load them when leaving. The job needed includes mounting the tables, spreading all the stuff around the venue, and recollecting it. However, when it comes to any electronic, the latter job is done by our

technicians. If possible, those people should be the caddies themselves.

- Enough BBO Operators, therefore 4 to 8. However, since most operators are not able to work all day, every day, that number should be 6 to 10, to allow some rotation.
- A BBO Manager, who is responsible for the other operators' working schedule. He/she might well be one of the operators.
- One stable registration clerk, plus three more to help before the start.
- All those people, or, at least, the main ones, should be able to speak English (mandatory for TDs, Registration and On Site Organizer).

3.6.3 Equipment

The EBL owns almost everything needed for any Championship, however, some equipment must, mandatory, be found on site, provided by the Host. Anyhow, whatever can be found on site, makes less heavy the final EBL's expenses list, and, therefore, can change the conditions of the deal signed. Here's the list of the mandatory stuff:

- Two copy machines - a main one and a back up one - for the Daily Bulletin (if the Bulletin is to be printed outside, by some company, they are not required anymore). Those machines have to be very fast (on market, the fastest make up to 120 page per minute, but an 105, or even 80 ppm does the job). They need to be able to print on A3, then staple the pages on the middle, and fold them up. They also need to be used through the network.
 - A fast colour copy machine for the Main Office, able to print A3 and connectable to the network.
 - One more copy machines connectable to the network, for the secretariat which needs to have a sorter).
 - Water Fountains.
 - Two projectors.
- Stuff not mandatory, but very welcome:
- 60 Bridgemates II.
 - 2 Bridgemate Servers.
 - 6 42inches Plasma Screens

- 60 tables with screens.
- 2 more projectors.
- 10 low profile computers, to be used to control Plasmas and Projectors and for some other low profile job.
- 6 laser printers with spare toner cartridges.

3.6.4 Other requirements

- An opening ceremony followed by a cocktail.
- A closing ceremony followed by a Victory Banquet.
- Accommodation in Bed & Breakfast basis for the staff and the EBL Executive. This includes:
 - A suite for the EBL's President
 - 6 Superior Rooms for single or double occupancy
 - Enough rooms to accommodate the staff, possibly as single occupancy, but few doubles may be acceptable.
 - Championship's bags for all the participants and officials, with a pen, some notepad, useful information about the city, a map and some gifts.

3.7 Alternatives to the format

As previously said, during the years a strong request to shorten the event has been put to the EBL.

Keeping the actual number of boards per match, curtailing the event any further is basically impossible, however, changing that number, we might be able to squeeze the whole event into less days.

Playing matches of 16 boards, four matches per day are possible. Here is a schedule:

10.00 - 12.20

13.30 - 15.50

16.10 - 18.30

18.50 - 21.10

or, shortening the lunch break (usually a solution fancied by the players, who don't like long breaks)

10.00 - 12.20

13.00 - 15.20

15.40 - 18.00

18.20 - 20.40

However, 14 boards per match would give us an even better time schedule:

10.00 - 12.00

13.00 - 15.00

15.20 - 17.20

17.40 - 19.40

Once more, shortening the lunch break is possible:

10.00 - 12.00

12.40 - 14.40

15.00 - 17.00

17.20 - 19.20

This would make possible to play in six days.

At the same time, it is suitable for a day off at some point - another request often made.

A shorter Championships, so often asked for, saves money for the EBL, the Host and the NBOs, but, of course, someone may feel as a technical disadvantage the shorter length of the match.

Further than that, a shorter Championship makes the event less attractive for the playing place, therefore more difficult to negotiate good rates for venues, hotels and so forth.

You have to evaluate pros and contras.

4. YOUTH PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIPS

4.1 General information

This event, which now comprises the categories Under 26, Under 21 and Girls, is nowadays organized in even years, but was organized in even years up to 2003 (and the first even year was 2006).

4.2 History

The European Junior Pairs Championship was established in 1991 following an idea by EBL Youth Committee Chairman at the time Panos Gerontopoulos. It was played over the weekend preceding the European Junior Camp.

In 1995, the European Junior Pairs Championship was extended to young players from other continents and thus it became a World event. It was planned that the European event remained incorporated in the World Junior Pairs Championship for as long as the latter is held in Europe.

In 2006, in *Piestany, Slovakia*, the championship was split in two series, one for Juniors and one for Schools, and the competition was renamed to its present name.

In 2008, in *Wroclaw, Poland*, the European Youth Pairs Championships were disassociated from the corresponding World competition and again restricted to European players only. At the same time, a new series was added, for female young players, the 'Girls'. For the 2012 Championships, it was decided to add a Mixed competition.

4.3 Time of the Year

The event is usually held in July, starting on the first or the second week (once it started on the 30th of June), over three days, but they will be five this year. That time is not mandatory, however, it fits with all the European NBOs' competitions and the WBF's calendar. Any time in July or August is possible, but only provided it fits with the other competitions' calendar.

4.4 Location's requirements

Even though touristic attractions are always welcome, this is not a mandatory characteristic for this Championship. However, the place needs to have enough Hotel's rooms.

A four or five stars Hotel is needed for officials, whereas the teams usually ask for cheaper accommodations.

Three or two stars Hotels, and even University Campus are requested. They should have triple or even quadruple rooms, an accommodation often asked for.

It is extremely important to have the possibility to get a full board accommodation for the participants.

4.5 Format

Depending on the number of participants, the various series were to be played throughout or in separate stages (qualifying, semifinal, final), with barometer scoring applying to the final stage.

4.6 Requirements

4.6.1 Venue

The space needed is calculated on the basis of 10 m² per table. The maximum number of tables playing simultaneously depends by the entries. All in all, It is reasonable to expect between 120 and 180 pairs (they were 133 in Opatjia).

This adds up 900 m², however, you need some corridor somewhere to make easier for officials to move through the room

and, specially, to carry boards in and out. Then a couple of desks for scoring stations, a least of two lots per room for water fountains, some table for personal score cards (one per room is the minimum), and you have to take care of security exits, power cabins, fire stations and so forth.

You need, then, a minimum of further 100 m².

All in all, around 1100 m².

Other than the playing area, you also need:

- A Duplication Room, of no less than 20 m², with a big central table good for 2/3 operators, and shelves all around.
- A Main Office, usually used as IT storage as well, as big as the Duplication room, but with just a long table next to a wall. Main office and duplication need to be next each other, and as close as possible to the playing area.
- A Secretariat, big enough for 1/2 working stations (desks), a copy machine and some shelf for piling up documents and other stuff.
- A President Office, with a main desk, some extra table, and, possibly, furniture for meetings.
- A Meeting Room, with a big, central table. A screen for projection is welcome. Secretariat, President and Meeting rooms need to be next each other (specially the former ones).
- If it is not possible to accommodate the IT storage into the Main Office, a IT Storage Room.
- A storage place, to put all the stuff when it comes, and to put things like empty boxes (cards, screens, others) during the Championship. As big as possible, but no less than 100 m².
- One Appeals Committee Room available on request.

The venue needs to be totally wired (LAN), and to have the possibility to get Internet access at a minimum speed of 3Mb. Power supplies need also to be available all over, and the power needs to be 220 Volts.

4.6.2 Personnel

The EBL has its own stable staff for the most delicate operations, however, some extra people is required to be provided by the host:

- One Assistant Tournament Directors. Whenever possible he/she should be EBL TDs or, at the very least, ought to have participated to some EBL's TDs Course.
- Four caddies.
- an On Site organizer, as link to the EBL's Operations Director (Championship's Manager).
- Some people - usually four to six - to unload the trucks when coming, and load them when leaving. The job needed includes mounting the tables, spreading all the stuff around the venue, and recollecting it. However, when it comes to any electronic, the latter job is done by our technicians. If possible, those people should be the caddies themselves.
- One stable registration clerk, plus three more to help before the start.
- All those people, or, at least, the main ones, should be able to speak English (mandatory for TDs, Registration and On Site Organizer).

4.6.3 Equipment

The EBL owns almost everything needed for any Championship, however, some equipment must, mandatory, be found on site, provided by the Host. Anyhow, whatever can be found on site, makes less heavy the final EBL's expenses list, and, therefore, can change the conditions of the deal signed. Here's the list of the mandatory stuff:

- Two copy machines - a main one and a back up one - for the Daily Bulletin (if the Bulletin is to be printed outside, by some company, they are not required anymore). Those machines have to be very fast (on market, the fastest make up to 120 page per minute, but an 105, or even 80 ppm does the job). They need to be able to print on A3, then staple the pages on the middle, and fold them up. They also need to be used through the network.
- A fast colour copy machine for the Main Office, able to print A3 and connectable to the network.
- One more copy machines connectable to the network, for the secretariat which needs to have a sorter).
- Water Fountains.

- Two projectors.
- Stuff not mandatory, but very welcome:
 - 90 Bridgemates II.
 - 4 Bridgemate Servers.
 - 6 42inches Plasma Screens
 - 90 tables with screens.
 - 2 more projectors.
 - 10 low profile computers, to be used to control Plasmas and Projectors and for some other low profile job.
 - 6 laser printers with spare toner cartridges.

4.6.4 Other requirements

- An opening ceremony followed by a cocktail.
- A closing ceremony followed by a Victory Banquet.
- Accommodation in Bed & Breakfast basis for the staff and the EBL Executive. This includes:
 - A suite for the EBL's President
 - 6 Superior Rooms for single or double occupancy
 - Enough rooms to accommodate the staff, possibly as single occupancy, but few doubles may be acceptable.
 - Championship's bags for all the participants and officials, with a pen, some notepad, useful information about the city, a map and some gifts.

4.7 Alternatives to the format

I think there are not logical alternatives, but suggestions are welcome.

5. EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS' CUP

5.1 General information

This event started in 2002, and is organized annually.

5.2 History

The European Champions' Cup competition was originally tried under the support of PHILIP MORRIS in the eighties. The so-called at the time 'Europa Cup' addressed the winners of the national club championship in each EBL country. Every two years, the winners of neighboring countries met at the qualifying stage held around Europe, with the top ones advancing to the European final. The competition was discontinued in

1988, and gave way to another championship that was established in 1990 as a biennial event: the European Mixed Championships.

One of the problems that led to the discontinuation of the 'Europa Cup' was that many countries do not hold national club championships. These countries were usually represented by their national teams, thus creating a diversity. When the idea of having a competition reserved to the top was revived in 2002, a different approach was tried. Invited to send teams to the competition were now selected according to their results at a previous European Championship (itself to be decided by the EBL).

The European Champions' Cup is held annually.

5.3 Time of the Year

The event is usually held in October, over four days, on the second or third week.

5.4 Location's requirements

Even though touristic attractions are always welcome, this is not a mandatory characteristic for this Championship. However, the place needs to have enough Hotel's rooms.

A four or five stars Hotel is needed for officials and for most teams, whereas some team may ask for cheaper accommodations.

It is important to have the possibility to get a full board accommodation for the participants.

5.5 Format

The twelve teams are split in two groups, and play a Round Robin. Then Semi Finals and Finals for 1st, 3rd 5th and 9th place follow.

Requirements

5.5.1 Venue

The space needed is calculated on the basis of 20 m² per table, therefore 240 in all, however, since four to eight tables are covered by BBO, those tables need few more space. You need some corridor somewhere to make easier for officials to move through the room and, specially, to carry boards in and out. Then a couple of desks for scoring stations, one water fountain per room, some table for personal score cards (one per room), and you have to take care of security exits, power cabins, fire stations and so forth.

You need, then, a minimum of further 40 m².

Other than the playing area, you also need:

- A Duplication Room, of no less than 16 m², with a central table for the operator(s), and some shelf around.
- A Secretariat, big enough for 1/2 working stations (desks), a copy machine and some shelf for piling up documents and other stuff.
- A Meeting Room, with a big, central table. A screen for projection is welcome. Secretariat, President and Meeting rooms need to be next each other (specially the former ones).
- One Appeals Committee Room available on request.

The venue needs to be totally wired (LAN), and to have the possibility to get Internet access at a minimum speed of 3Mb. Power supplies need also to be available all over, and the power needs to be 220 Volts.

5.5.2 Personnel

The EBL provides the Chief TD and Operations Director, but some other personnel is required :

- One Assistant Tournament Directors and one Director (or two Director). Whenever possible they should be EBL TDs or, at the very least, ought to have participated to some EBL's TDs Course.
- Two caddies.
- an On Site organizer, as link to the EBL's Operations Director (Championship's Manager).
- All those people should be able to speak English (mandatory for TDs, Registration and On Site Organizer).

5.5.3 Equipment

The EBL owns almost everything needed for any Championship, however, for this specific event, all is needed should be found onsite. We can still send some equipment, but at the Host's expenses. Here's the list:

- A fast colour copy machine, able to print A3 and connectable to the network.
- Water Fountains.
- Two projectors.
- 12 Bridgemates.
- 2 Bridgemate Servers.

- 2 42inches Plasma Screens
- 12 tables with screens.
- some low profile computers, to be used to control Plasmas and Projectors and for some other low profile job.
- 2 laser printers with spare toner cartridges.

5.5.4 Other requirements

- An opening ceremony followed by a cocktail.
- A closing ceremony followed by a Victory Banquet.
- Accommodation in full board basis for the staff and the EBL Executive. This includes:
 - A suite for the EBL's President
 - 6 Superior Rooms for single or double occupancy
 - Enough rooms to accommodate the staff, possibly as single occupancy, but few doubles may be acceptable.
 - Championship's bags for all the participants and officials, with a pen, some notepad, useful information about the city, a map and some gifts.

5.5.5 Alternatives to the format

The format is well established, however, during the KO stage playing segments of 16 boards instead of 12 would allow to have less breaks, and would be generally preferred.

It may also be the case to discuss the option of canceling the Money Prizes.