

EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE

Yves Aubry
President

To The Presidents of the EBL NBOs
WBF zones
Cc EBL Executive Committee
WBF Executive Committee

4th February 2013

6th EUROPEAN OPEN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS
Ostend, Belgium
15th June – 29th June 2013
Organised by the European Bridge League
In cooperation with the Royal Belgian Bridge Federation

Dear President and Friend,

Today, we are pleased to send you some new information on the 6th European Open Bridge Championships to be held at:

Kursaal Oostende (Sea Promenade)
Ostend, Belgium
15th June – 29th June 2013

Format of the Championships

You will find here enclosed a **booklet** detailing the format of these Championships.

Compared to our first information letter you will notice a change concerning the WOMEN and SENIORS TEAMS schedule.

These Championships include Medal events (Mixed, Open, Women and Seniors by Pairs and by Teams) and side events by Pairs or by Teams with usual competitions but also some IMP or BAM (Board a Match) formats.

The finals of the Pairs will be played with Barometer.

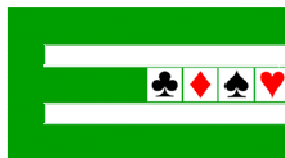
All participants will play 5 segments of 10 boards that is to say 50 boards a day in all events except Saturday 29th June (4 segments of 10 boards followed by the Closing Ceremony). However, the KO in Open/Women/Seniors per Teams will be played with 2x14 boards (56 boards per day).



Schedule of Play

Each daily session will start at 10:00 except on the first day Saturday 15th June when the starting time will be 09:45.

Date & Time	Event (Medal events in bold)	Format
<u>Saturday June 15</u>		
09:45 - 19:15	Welcome Address then immediatly	
	MIXED PAIRS Qualifying day 1 of 2	5 segments of 10 boards
	Open MP Pairs 1 day	5 segments of 10 boards
	Open Board a Match Teams day 1 of 2	5 matches of 10 boards
<u>Sunday June 16</u>		
10:00 - 19:15	MIXED PAIRS Qualifying day 2 of 2	5 segments of 10 boards
	Open IMP Pairs 1 day	5 segments of 10 boards
	Open Board a Match Teams day 2 of 2	5 matches of 10 boards
<u>Monday June 17</u>		
10:00 - 19:15	MIXED PAIRS Final day 1 of 2	5 segments of 10 boards
	Open MP Pairs 1 day	5 segments of 10 boards
	Open Swiss Teams day 1 of 2	5 matches of 10 boards
<u>Tuesday June 18</u>		
10:00 - 19:15	MIXED PAIRS Final day 2 of 2	5 segments of 10 boards
	Open MP Pairs 1 day	5 segments of 10 boards
	Open Swiss Teams day 2 of 2	5 matches of 10 boards
19:45	MIXED PAIRS Prize Giving	
<u>Wednesday June 19</u>		
10:00 - 19:15	MIXED SWISS TEAMS day 1 of 3	5 matches of 10 boards
	Open MP Pairs 1 day	5 segments of 10 boards
<u>Thursday June 20</u>		
10:00 - 19:15	MIXED SWISS TEAMS day 2 of 3	5 matches of 10 boards
	Open MP Pairs 1 day	5 segments of 10 boards
<u>Friday June 21</u>		
10:00 - 19:15	MIXED SWISS TEAMS day 3 of 3	5 matches of 10 boards
	Open MP Pairs 1 day	5 segments of 10 boards
	Open Swiss Teams 1 day	Depending on no.of entries
19:45	MIXED TEAMS Prize Giving	



Date & Time	Event (Medal events in bold)	Format
<u>Saturday June 22</u>		
10:00 - 19:15	OPEN/WOMEN/SENIOR TEAMS	
	Qualifying Swiss day 1 of 2	5 matches of 10 boards
	Open MP Pairs 1 day	5 segments of 10 boards
<u>Sunday June 23</u>		
10:00 - 19:15	OPEN/WOMEN/SENIOR TEAMS	
	Qualifying Swiss day 2 of 2	5 matches of 10 boards
	Open MP Pairs 1 day	5 segments of 10 boards
<u>Monday June 24</u>		
10:00 - 14:15	<u>OPEN TEAMS KO round of 16</u>	<u>2 times 14 boards</u>
	<u>WOMEN/SENIOR TEAMS KO Semifinals</u>	<u>2 times 14 boards</u>
15:15 - 19:30	<u>OPEN TEAMS KO Quarterfinals</u>	<u>2 times 14 boards</u>
	<u>WOMEN/SENIOR TEAMS KO Final</u>	<u>2 times 14 boards</u>
10:00 - 19:15	Open MP Pairs 1 day	5 segments of 10 boards
	Open Swiss Teams 1 day	Depending on no.of entries
<u>Tuesday June 25</u>		
10:00 - 14:15	OPEN TEAMS KO Semifinals	2 times 14 boards
15:15 - 19:30	OPEN TEAM KO Final	2 times 14 boards
10:00 - 19:15	OPEN PAIRS Qualifying day 1 of 2	5 segments of 10 boards
	Open IMP Pairs 1 day	5 segments of 10 boards
20:00	O/W/S TEAMS Prize Giving	
<u>Wednesday June 26</u>		
10:00 - 19:15	OPEN PAIRS Qualifying day 2 of 2	5 segments of 10 boards
	Open MP Pairs 1 day	5 segments of 10 boards
<u>Thursday June 27</u>		
10:00 - 19:15	OPEN PAIRS Semifinal	5 segments of 10 boards
	WOMEN/SENIOR PAIRS Qualif. Day 1 of 2	5 segments of 10 boards
	Open MP Pairs 1 day	5 segments of 10 boards
<u>Friday June 28</u>		
10:00 - 19:15	OPEN PAIRS Final day 1 of 2	5 segments of 10 boards
	WOMEN/SENIOR PAIRS Qualif. Day 2 of 2	5 segments of 10 boards
	Open MP Pairs 1 day	5 segments of 10 boards
	Open Board a Match Teams day 1 of 2	5 matches of 10 boards
<u>Saturday June 29</u>		
10:00 - 17:30	OPEN PAIRS Final day 2 of 2	4 segments of 10 boards
	WOMEN/SENIOR Final	4 segments of 10 boards
	Open MP Pairs 1 day	4 segments of 10 boards
	Open Board a Match Teams day 2 of 2	4 matches of 10 boards
18:30	O/W/S PAIRS Prize Giving, Closing Ceremony and Cocktails	



Registration

All entries to the various competitions must be submitted electronically **by 31st May 2013** via the EBL Website (not by email).

The registration process will be open in March.

Bridge players from all WBF zones are entitled to participate in the Championships provided they are members in good standing of a National Bridge Federation (NBO).

To be eligible for participation in the 2013 European Open Championships a player must comply with the EBL Rules & Regulations and the EBL Eligibility Code under the control of the EBL Credentials Committee.

Entries received will be automatically forwarded to the NBO of each proposed player, and are subject to their NBO's approval. Entry applications submitted after the deadline will be accepted only if technically convenient. Withdrawals of accepted entries are subject to the same deadline.

For Open, Women and Seniors Teams the players must only apply to one event. No player may be registered in two teams.

Women and Seniors pairs can also try qualifying in the OPEN PAIRS, while still retaining the option to enter the WOMEN/SENIORS PAIRS.

Entry fees

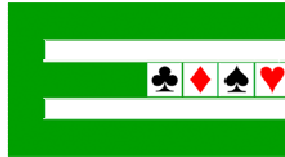
To be paid by bank transfer (see below) or by Credit Card (via the EBL website – Opening in March).

Bank Transfer **before or on 31st May 2013** to

HSBC Bank
31 Chequer Street
St Albans AL1 3YN – UK -
Account : EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE
IBAN: GB82MIDL 4005 1571 2825 45
SWIFT/BIC: MIDLGB22
(to be mentioned)

For later registrations to Medal events and for all side events, to be paid in cash (Euros) or by Credit Card at the Tournament Reception and Registration Desk in the venue.

Event	Entry fees
Mixed Pairs (per pair)	€ 400
Mixed Teams (per team)	€ 720
Open Teams (per team)	€ 800
Women/Seniors Teams	€ 720
Open Pairs (per pair)	€ 400
Women/Seniors Pairs (+ Qualification in Open)	€ 400
Women/Seniors Pairs (without Qualification in Open)	€ 350



The entry fees to a main event allow playing the event on its complete duration. In case of elimination at the end of two days each pair or team will play a free side event on the third day. A registration guarantees a minimum of 3 days of play.

- ♠ A 25% discount on the entry fees will be granted to Juniors (born in 1988 or later)
- ♠ A 15% discount on the entry fees will also be granted to the members of the RBBF and the NBB.

Please note that these two discounts are non-accumulative.

Entry fees for all side events are EUR 70 per pair respectively EUR 140 per team, per day. No junior/local discounts apply for these events.

Awards

European Bridge League Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals will be awarded. The winners in each category (Mixed, Open, Women, Seniors) will receive the title of European Open Champions. EBL medals will not be awarded for outside events.

EBL Master Points will also be awarded.

Hotel accommodation

Special prices have been negotiated with hotels in Ostend and you can book:

- directly with the Hotel Thermae Palace : www.thermaepalace.be (Booking form attached)
- through the Ostend Tourism Office : list of other hotels via the following link :
https://secure.cubilis.eu/portal/belgie/oostende/view_packages.aspx?pid=103&lang=en

Code: bridge2013

The EBL strongly recommends you to book your room through the Ostend Tourism Office as soon as possible in order to ensure that you get the required accommodation.

Rules & Regulations

The Rules & Regulations, including the Anti-doping Regulation, the Eligibility Code, the Disciplinary Code, and the Dress Code will be published, together with the Systems Policy, on the EBL website from **1st April 2013**.

Contact

For technical information, please send a mail to ostend2013@europeanbridge.org

For logistical information (hotel, travel, etc...), please contact:

Catherine Vitry - EBL Secretariat
Email: secretariat@europeanbridge.org

Yours sincerely,

Yves Aubry



6th European Open Championships Booklet

Schedule of play

Please find enclosed the final day-by-day programme. Also enclosed you will find the second week presented as a graphical overview that may assist in visualizing the schedule. The first week is fairly straight-forward.

Compared to our initial preliminary communication there is a change concerning the WOMEN and SENIOR TEAMS schedule. They both now start at the same time as the Open Teams (as has been the case in the past), that is Saturday June 22, ending Monday June 24. This earlier start and finish means that women and seniors from their own team event can also try qualifying in the OPEN PAIRS, while still retaining the option to enter the WOMEN/SENIOR PAIRS. Such an option has been requested by many women and senior players, and we are pleased to be able accommodate this. Furthermore, the qualification stage lasts two days and the final stage one day, not the other way around as previously stated.

Entry fees

Entry fees for the medal events are as originally published.

Entry fees for all side events are EUR 70 per pair respectively EUR 140 per team, per day. No local/junior discounts apply for these events.

Participants not qualifying to the latter stages of a medal event can enter a one-day side event free of charge, thus being guaranteed a minimum of 3 days of play. Those who instead want to enter a two-day event will receive a discount for the second day, paying only EUR 50 per pair respectively EUR 100 per team for the event.



EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE

General concept

Based partly on input from previous participants we have decided to implement various changes compared to past years and will highlight some of them, and their consequences, here:

Women and Seniors

In the past women and seniors playing in their own events could not try to qualify for the Open events. Now they can attempt to qualify in the Open Pairs before deciding on playing in the Women/Senior Pairs. However, for the Teams they still have to choose between Open and Women/Seniors. The enclosed graphical overview of the second week may help understanding the concept.

Side events

We have added daily Open Pairs events and several Open Team events (European Master Points will be awarded in all). This means among other things that:

- Players who are not interested in the longer medal events can participate at an international event, earning EMPs, creating a “festival” feeling.
- Players without mixed partners can still enjoy many competitions during the first week.
- We can avoid B-Finals and similar, which most participants find meaningless, still providing playing opportunities for those eliminated from the qualification stages and waiting for the next medal event.
- Pairs without team-mates still have ample playing opportunities even during the duration of the team events (Wednesday 19th – Monday 24th).
- Local players are given opportunities to play events every day, without committing to a longer stay.

Order of Mixed events

Starting with Mixed Pairs allows those arriving without team-mates time to find them before the Mixed Teams starts.

Length of events

Shortening events somewhat means we can avoid almost all “cross-overs” between events. They created complications for participants and organizers alike, and the sporting fairness was compromised. Only the final day of the Open Teams collide with the first day of Open Pairs qualifying, so partnerships from those 4 teams get to start with the semi-finals of the Open Pairs.

This also allows us avoid any event starting one week and ending the next. Many participants have complained about this in the past since it complicates vacation planning, and often increases accommodation and travel costs, for those not staying both weeks.

Format for Team Qualifications

All qualification stages will be in the Swiss format, no Round Robin in groups. This avoids the imperfect seeding procedure, particularly in case of “no-shows” or late entries. Of course the overall length of the events also makes two different qualifying stages impractical.



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	Open IMP Pairs 1 day	5 segments of 10 boards
20:00	O/W/S TEAMS Prize Giving	
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10:00 - 19:15	OPEN PAIRS Qualifying day 2 of 2	5 segments of 10 boards
	Open MP Pairs 1 day	5 segments of 10 boards
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10:00 - 19:15	OPEN PAIRS Semifinal	5 segments of 10 boards
	WOMEN/SENIOR PAIRS Qualif. Day 1 of 2	5 segments of 10 boards
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<u>Saturday June 29</u>		
10:00 - 17:30	OPEN PAIRS Final day 2 of 2	4 segments of 10 boards
	WOMEN/SENIOR Final	4 segments of 10 boards
	Open MP Pairs 1 day	4 segments of 10 boards
	Open Board a Match Teams day 2 of 2	4 matches of 10 boards
18:30	O/W/S PAIRS Prize Giving, Closing Ceremony and Cocktails	



EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE

Day	Mixed Team	Mixed Pair	Side Pairs	Side Teams	Notes
Saturday June 15		Mixed Qualif. 1-5	MPs	Open BAM 2 days	
Sunday June 16		Mixed Qualif. 6-10	Open IMPs		
Monday June 17		Mixed Final 52 Pairs	MPs =>	Open Swiss 2 days	Free 1 day for Mixed pairs not qualifying
Tuesday June 18			MPs		
Wednesday June 19	Mixed Swiss 1-5		MPs		
Thursday June 20	Mixed Swiss 6-10		MPs		
Friday June 21	Mixed Swiss 11-13 Mixed Finals (Note =>)		MPs	Open Swiss 1 day	After 13 rounds 1st vs 2nd/3rd vs 4th play 20 boards KO for medals. Rest continue Swiss.



EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE

Day	OPEN TEAMS	W/S TEAMS	OPEN PAIRS	W/S PAIRS	Side Pairs	Side Teams
Saturday June 22	Qualification	Qualification			MPs	
Sunday June 23					MPs	
Monday June 24	Knock-out	Knock-out				
Tuesday June 25			Qualification	IMPs		
Wednesday June 26				MPs		
Thursday June 27			Semi final	Qualification	MPs	Open BAM 2 days
Friday June 28			Final 46 Pairs			
Saturday June 29					Final	