

QUALIFIER FOR WORLD TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS & EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS' CUP

RealBridge at secure NBO venues • 23 - 28 August, 2021



Daily Bulletin - Issue No 1

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WELCOME MESSAGE

Dear Players, Officials and Staff

In the name also of my colleagues on the EBL Executive Committee I take great pleasure in welcoming you to the first ever Zone 1 Qualification for the World Teams Championships and the Champions' Cup, played online on the RealBridge platform. I am looking forward to it with equal amounts of anticipation and worry! It is an enormous undertaking on several levels, considering that we are basically breaking new ground and sail in uncharted waters, at least for an event of this size and importance.

Although we have tried our best to prepare for all eventualities there are so many things that can go wrong. Just to mention one - In a "normal" face-to-face event the internet connection may be lost at the venue. It affects everybody equally; play can still go on even if the scoring, results and broadcasting services will be

interrupted. In this event we may have such an occurrence in any one of about thirty-five locations!

Organizing neutral observers to travel across Europe, spanning from Canary Islands to Russia and Iceland to Israel, would be challenging during "normal" times. Imagine doing it during a pandemic, with travel and entry regulations differing from country to country and continuously changing.

There are many persons and entities that have made it possible to arrange this event. The NBOs that have set up playing venues in accordance with stringent requirements and organized many observers willing to serve abroad. The observers themselves, many of whom have been willing to serve as substitutes in case of need on short notice. The TDs and EBL technical staff that have set up the protocols and modus operandi for communications between different parts of the organization to function. This is a "first" for most, if not all, of them. Our thanks also to the Daily Bulletin staff and to Anna Gudge, who deserves credit for dealing with almost 300 System Cards of which many needed a serious "face-lift"!

Last, but by no means least, our gratitude goes to RealBridge. Through Shireen Mohandes and Andy Bowles, the EBL has received an unparalleled cooperation in setting up the platform specifically for this event. Every special request has been attended to, resulting in several new releases of the RealBridge "client" and playing environment.

That leaves you, the Players, the most important part of the puzzle. I thank you in advance for demonstrating impeccable ethics and for following all special requirements communicated to you for this event. Although most of you have played on this platform before, you have normally done so from the comfort of your home. Doing so in this setting will require a lot of discipline. We, as organizers, can only do so much – the rest is up to you.

I wish all of you every success in qualifying and a pleasant experience as well.

Jan Kamras

EBL President



LIST OF TEAMS

OPEN	WOMEN	SENIORS	MIXED
AUSTRIA	BELGIUM	BELGIUM	BELGIUM
BELGIUM	DENMARK	BULGARIA	CROATIA
BULGARIA	ENGLAND	DENMARK	DENMARK
CROATIA	ESTONIA	ENGLAND	ENGLAND
DENMARK	FRANCE	ESTONIA	FRANCE
ENGLAND	GERMANY	FRANCE	GERMANY
ESTONIA	HUNGARY	GERMANY	IRELAND
FRANCE	ICELAND	GREECE	ISRAEL
GERMANY	IRELAND	HUNGARY	LATVIA
GREECE	ISRAEL	ICELAND	NETHERLANDS
HUNGARY	NETHERLANDS	IRELAND	NORWAY
ICELAND	NORWAY	ISRAEL	POLAND
IRELAND	POLAND	LATVIA	PORTUGAL
ISRAEL	PORTUGAL	NETHERLANDS	ROMANIA
ITALY	RUSSIA	NORWAY	RUSSIA
LATVIA	SCOTLAND	POLAND	SCOTLAND
LITHUANIA	SPAIN	PORTUGAL	SPAIN
NETHERLANDS	SWEDEN	ROMANIA	SWEDEN
NORWAY	SWITZERLAND	RUSSIA	SWITZERLAND
POLAND	TURKEY	SCOTLAND	TURKEY
PORTUGAL		SPAIN	WALES
ROMANIA		SWEDEN	
RUSSIA		SWITZERLAND	
SCOTLAND		TURKEY	
SLOVENIA			
SPAIN			
SWEDEN			
SWITZERLAND			
TURKEY			
UKRAINE			
WALES			

TEAMS' ROSTERS ARE AVAILABLE AT:

<http://db.eurobridge.org/repository/competitions/21OnlineNationalTeams/microsite/Participants.asp>



MASTER POINTS AWARD

SPECIAL RULES FOR THE 2021 QUALIFIER FOR THE WORLD TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS AND EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS' CUP

EMP Scales

For each Series (Open, Women, Seniors and Mixed) the EMP award for each position will be half of the scale published on the EBL website and available directly at:

<http://www.eurobridge.org/regulations/european-master-points/emp-scales/#table-1>

Any fractions will be rounded up.

Playing Requirements

Notwithstanding the requirements in the EBL General Conditions of Contest the following minimum requirements will apply to this event:

- Less than one third of the boards => No EMPs.
- One third but not two thirds of the boards => Half of the available EMPs.
- Two thirds or more of the boards => Full amount of the available EMPs.

In case of a “bye”, or if a match cannot be played for other reasons outside of the team’s control, it will be considered as if all players on a team have played.

EBL Championships and Master Points Committees
July 6, 2021



IMPORTANT NOTES FOR PLAYERS AND CAPTAINS

These notes are meant to highlight matters specific to the online playing environment. They do not substitute for the obligation to know and follow the Supplemental Conditions of Contest and other Conditions, Regulations and Policies of the EBL covering this event.

GENERAL

- Before, or at the start of, Round 1 all players must submit a hard copy of their system card to the official observer.
- The only items allowed at a player's station are: their monitor (the browser must be maximized occupying the entire screen); no other programs or documents open "in the background"; sound muted and microphones off; keyboard and "mouse"; the opponents' original System Cards and Supplementary Sheets; a private score card and writing utensil; and non-alcoholic drinks.
- Except for computers in use for play, mobile phones and electronic devices capable of communication may not be taken into the playing area. No headphones, earphones or comparable devices are allowed, only keyboard communication.
- Players are requested to be seated 5 minutes before the scheduled start of play.
- Except for calling the Observer in case of going to the toilet, or some mechanical/logistical problem at the playing venue, no talk is allowed at the table. All communication is through text, in English.
- Observers will not fulfil any TD functions. All TD calls are made within the RealBridge platform.
- NPCs, coaches, team officials and team members not currently playing are not allowed in the playing area. They may watch play on the delayed kibitzing facility provided.

BIDDING, ALERTS and EXPLANATIONS

- Players are responsible for alerting and explaining by text to both opponents any call they make that is alertable (self-alerting).
- The normal procedure is to type a short explanation into the box just below the pass card in the bidding box, **before** bidding.
- If a player omits to type the explanation before bidding, they can add an explanation afterwards by clicking on the bid. This method can also be used to add to an existing explanation.
- Either opponent may ask for further clarification by private text **to the player who made the call**. All explanations will be by text, either as an explanation attached to the bid, or using the private chat facility.
- The table's chat facility must not be used while the screen is down.
- It is emphasised that a player's own system card is not allowed at the table (neither digitally nor physically), nor is any other aid such as an abbreviated version of the opponents' card with private notations. Section 6 of the EBL Systems Regulations (submission of defence to 'multi') does not apply to this event.

DURING PLAY

- There are automatic pauses generated as follows: Auction delay for dealer – 5 secs; Trick 1 lead - 5 secs; dummy - 10 secs, 3rd hand - 5 secs.
- Undos: A player wishing to substitute a call under Law 25A1 shall call the TD who may allow the substitution if they are 100% certain that the call was unintended. A change of call or play based on misinformation (Laws 21B1 and 47E2) may be allowed by the TD. Otherwise no change of call or play is allowed.
- It is strongly recommended that players use the "double click" option for input.
- If a pair should claim that the responsibility for the slow play is with their opponents, they will do so by calling a TD who will take any corrective measures that are necessary.
- At claim, the screens are removed ("all see all"). Consequently, if the players contest the claim, it is recommended to call the TD and not to choose the "play on" option. The same applies for a defender's concession – if there is any doubt, call a TD.
- Communication with the TD will be by text, using the TD's private chat facility. When the TD arrives at the table, wait for the TD to activate private chat with you.



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Vigfús Pálsson



Through the Keyhole

Mark Horton

Sir David Frost was one of the original presenters of this game show in which a celebrity panel were given clues that were designed to help them work out who owned a particular house. I can still hear the arch interviewer delivering the line - 'Let's go through the keyhole' at the start of the videos of the various properties. One little known fact about Frost is that he was offered a contract by one of my home town clubs, Nottingham Forest.

Attempting to find the solution to a problem at the bridge table frequently requires one to take advantage of clues that are provided by the opponent's actions in both the bidding and play. Try your hand at this one:

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

♠ 9 3
♥ A 10 7 2
♦ K Q 7 5 3 2
♣ J



♠ K Q 10 8 4 2
♥ —
♦ J 4
♣ A 10 8 7 5

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	1♠
1NT	Dble	2♦*	2♠
3♥	4♠	Dble	All Pass

2♦ Transfer

West leads the ♥3.

What clues are on offer?

We know that West has most of the missing high cards because of the INT overcall. Although it was East who doubled, West is a heavy favourite to hold 3/4 spades headed by the ♠AJ. West must also be credited with the ♦A and some honours in hearts and clubs. The lead of the ♥3 indicates that West does not have the ♥KQ or ♥QJ, which suggests either one honour or a suit headed by the ♥KJ. In addition West must have at least one club honour.

We don't know much about East's hand apart from the possession of at least five hearts.

Declarer is virtually certain to lose two spades and a diamond and needs to avoid losing any clubs.

Having presented you with the clues it's time to 'go through the keyhole' and reveal the layout...

♠ 9 3
♥ A 10 7 2
♦ K Q 7 5 3 2
♣ J

♠ A J 7 5 ♥ K 8 3 ♦ A 9 8 6 ♣ K 6	<table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 6 ♥ Q J 9 6 5 4 ♦ 10 ♣ Q 9 4 3 2
	N										
W		E									
	S										

♠ K Q 10 8 4 2
♥ —
♦ J 4
♣ A 10 8 7 5

It is clear that if declarer plays to ruff two clubs in dummy the contract must fail - indeed, it is likely to go two down as East might score a diamond ruff.

In order to get up to ten tricks declarer must make use of the diamonds. Suppose declarer takes the ♥A pitching a club, ruffs a heart, cashes the ♣A, ruffs a club and ruffs a heart. With West down to spades and diamonds declarer plays the ♠K and if it holds continues with the ♦J. However, West withholds the ace, wins the next diamond and then plays the ♠A followed by the jack. Declarer only loses one trump trick, but East scores two trick at the end for one down.

Declarer can avoid this unfortunate outcome by ruffing the third heart with the ♠8! If West then ducks a spade wins a diamond and exits with a diamond declarer can play three rounds of the suit, ruffing and then exit with a club. West will be forced to ruff and surrender the game going trick to the ♠Q.

There is one more trap to avoid. If West duck the first round of diamonds, wins the next one and tries cashing the ♠A, declarer must unblock the ♠10! Then West can always be endplayed to give dummy two more diamond tricks.

Declarer can achieve the same effect by ruffing a heart at trick one, cashing the ♣A, ruffing a club, ruffing a heart with the ♠A and then playing a top spade.

Interestingly enough, this line would fail if West's shape is 4-4-3-2 as then declarer needs to play to ruff two clubs in dummy. How does declarer know which line to follow?

At trick one, declarer played dummy's ♥2 and East followed with the five! Now declarer knows the hearts are 6-3. East should play an honour, leaving declarer in doubt as to the distribution.

Do you think East doubled hoping to score an early diamond ruff? I could ask, but Robots are notoriously bad at responding to emails.



Positional Play

Mark Horton

The positional factor at bridge can be important – it can contribute significantly to the result on a particular deal. In short matches you may only need to score heavily on a couple of ‘big’ deals to secure a win – and that is going to help a lot in a long round-robin.

Only your side is vulnerable when you pick up the following cards as dealer:

♠ 3
♥ A K Q 2
♦ A 10 9 2
♣ A J 7 5

Assuming you are not playing a Strong Club system, what is your opening bid?

In a recent ALT event 30 players faced this problem; one opted for 1♥, one for a conventional 2♦ (weak major or three-suited), seven for 1♣ and 18 for 1♦, while the other three were bound by system to start with a Strong 1♣.

Regardless of your opening bid 6♣ was reached 18 times. Here are your combined assets:

♠ 3
♥ A K Q 2
♦ A 10 9 2
♣ A J 7 5

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ K Q 2
♥ 7 4
♦ Q 8 4
♣ K Q 10 8 4

Which hand would you like to be dummy? I can guess your answer – it all depends on the location of the king (and jack) of diamonds.

In play North was declarer on five occasions, while South was at the helm on the remaining 13.

If you are playing from South’s hand and the opening lead is the ♠J or the ♥10 what is your general plan?

Time to reveal the layout:

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

♠ 3 ♥ A K Q 2 ♦ A 10 9 2 ♣ A J 7 5	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; text-align: center; width: 60px; height: 60px;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ A 9 8 7 4 ♥ J 8 5 ♦ 7 6 5 ♣ 3 2
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♠ J 10 6 5 ♥ 10 9 6 3 ♦ K J 3 ♣ 9 6		♠ K Q 2 ♥ 7 4 ♦ Q 8 4 ♣ K Q 10 8 4									

If South is the declarer and West leads a spade, East is likely to take the ace and perhaps switch to a diamond. Declarer will win with dummy’s ace, draw trumps and then cash black-suit winners squeezing a defender holding the master diamond and four hearts.

After a heart lead East can take the ♠A and return a second heart, but then West can be squeezed in the red suits.

All 13 players in the South seat recorded +1370.

If North is the declarer, a diamond lead from East is a killer – Eugen Chelu and Gunnar Hallberg were both up to the task of finding it, while Jiang Gu took all 13 tricks when East led the ♠4 at trick one.

In a tournament where you are playing a series of short matches being on the right side of deals like this will aid your cause.

