



EUROPEAN WINTER TRANSNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

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Daily Bulletin N. 1

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Eric Laurant Editor • Mark Horton Coordinator • Francesca Canali Head of Communication, Graphic Designer, Photographer • Arianna Testa Photographer
David Bird, David Burn, Amy Casanova, Marjo Chorus, Mark Horton, Jos Jacobs, Brian Senior, Marc Smith Journalists • Herman De wael Proofreader



WELCOME MESSAGE

The Home of Bridge is the Home of All of Us

Dear Players,

On behalf of my colleagues on the Executive Committee and myself, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the **European Winter Transnational Championships** in the beautiful city of Prague.

Our sincere gratitude goes to **Milan Macura** for helping the EBL organise this event, to Ave Chess and Top Hotel for their support with accommodation.

I am particularly delighted to see that this event continues to attract **players from beyond Europe**'s borders as well. In a world that grows ever more divided, the bridge family only grows closer together. **Welcome to Europe, friends! The home of bridge is always, and everywhere, the home of all of us.**

Just ten days ago, we gathered in Utrecht for the **NBOs Officers Seminar** with presidents and managers of European National Bridge Organisations, and we were honoured to be joined by representatives from the American Contract Bridge League. I can tell you that the **energy** and **enthusiasm** in that room were truly remarkable, especially when it came to the promotion and growth of our sport. There is a genuine momentum building across the bridge world to bring new players into our community.

And these **new players** must feel welcome. Here too, some of you may be competing at this level for the very first time. I kindly ask all of you to be warm, patient, and supportive towards these friends who may be less familiar with the pace and customs of international competition. This **spirit of hospitality** is just as important as the skill and ethical standards we expect at the table.

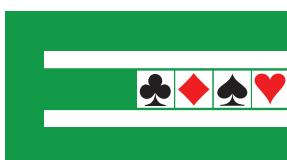
This year, the **format** of the Winter Transnational Championships has been completely renewed, offering a wide variety of events to choose from. And starting next year, this format will be expanded over even more competition days, giving players greater flexibility and more opportunities to enjoy the game. **We already have confirmed dates** all the way through 2030, so save the dates in your calendar.

I wish you all good luck and a great stay in Prague!

Eric Laurant
EBL President

⚠ RECEPTION - BADGE COLLECTION

Confirm your registration | complete payment | collect your badge on
Monday, 9 February from 15.00 to 18.00 Tuesday, 10 February from 8.45 to 9.45



**TOP
HOTEL
Praha**
& Congress Centre



USEFUL LINKS



EVENT'S WEBSITE



WHATSAPP CHANNEL



SCHEDULE



SYSTEM CARDS



PARTNERSHIP DESK



SUPPLEMENTAL
CONDITIONS OF CONTEST



BROADCAST



CONTACT US

CONTACTS ON SITE



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Dimitris Ballas



SCORING
Fotis Skoularikis



DAILY BULLETIN
Francesca Canali

MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

In case of a medical emergency,
please immediately call:

112

European emergency number

or

155

Ambulance

For on-site first aid assistance,
you may also contact:

Anna Makarewicz
 +48 506 24 96 96

Milan Macura
 +420 778 473 375



CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE

Eric LAURANT
Igor CHALUPEC
Maurizio DI SACCO
Milan MACURA

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EBL 1st Vice President & Treasurer
EBL Operations Director
On Site Organiser

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	Graphic Designer
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Maurizio DI SACCO

SYSTEMS & SYSTEM CARDS

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Francesca CANALI	Platform on the website

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IT SYSTEMS & INFRASTRUCTURE

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Manolo EMINENTI	Manager



NOTES FOR PLAYERS

These notes are for the convenience of players and captains. **They do not substitute for the obligation to know and follow the Conditions, Regulations and Policies of the EBL covering this event.**

GENERAL

- ♠ **Smoking is prohibited anywhere in the venue building**, including in the toilets, and in the outside smokers must stay at least five meters away from the entrances. Leaving the table during play in order to smoke is strictly forbidden and leads to severe, automatic penalties, and you risk expulsion (warning first, then yellow card, then red card). Smoking inside the building causes an immediate yellow card and a red comes at second offence. The use of electronic devices to smoke is subjected to the same penalties and disciplinary measures.
- ♠ The same measures as for smoking are applied to the consume of **alcoholic beverages** of any kind.
- ♠ Coming to the playing area under the effect of alcohol and/or drugs leads to immediate expulsion.
- ♠ **Mobile phones and electronic devices** capable of communication must be switched off in the playing area and placed in the screen's pouch at all times, i.e. they may not be brought to the toilets and never switched on during play sessions. Random checks will be made.
- ♠ All participants at the Championship venue must visibly wear their **official identification badge**.
- ♠ Players are requested to **be seated 5 minutes before the scheduled start of play**. Any team or pair that is not seated and ready to play at the start of a period of play will be subject to penalties.
- ♠ At the table, whether play is actually taking place at the moment or not, players (and NPCs) may converse only in **English** unless both pairs (and/or captains) agree to use some other common language at their own risk. TD adjudication will be in English only.
- ♠ During the period of play players should avoid discussions or arguments with partners and/or opponents. In case of a dispute a player's proper recourse is to a TD (or to the Captain of the team).

BIDDING TABLETS WILL BE IN USE: PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- ♠ Calls will be made by selecting the appropriate keys on the tablet.
- ♠ Requests for explanations of calls and play, and the responses thereto, shall be made either through tablets or in writing.
- ♠ TDs should be summoned using the appropriate button ONLY, and not raising hands or calling by voice. The UI caused by an improper call will be charged to the offender(s).
- ♠ Please make reference to the dedicated section of the Conditions of Contest for further details.
- ♠ **Please take note that written defences against multi 2♦(2♣) are NOT allowed anymore.**

DURING AND AFTER PLAY

- ♠ The opening lead must be made before the screen aperture is opened and only Declarer or Dummy may open the aperture or call for it to be opened.
- ♠ Each card should be played towards partner in a consistent manner and placed on the table in the same position each time. Once played, the player should not vary the orientation of the card.
- ♠ Quitted tricks should be placed consistently in a neat row in front of the player, evenly overlapping and at an equal distance from the previous card. If a player finds an opponent not following any of these rules, even after a warning, the proper recourse is to call a TD.
- ♠ If a pair should claim that the responsibility for the slow play is with their opponents, they will do so by calling a TD. TDs are authorized to remove boards when play has not finished in the allotted time or when slow play may lead to play not being finished in time. Law 86B may apply to cancelled boards.
- ♠ If a player on the side of the screen receiving the tray considers there has been a break in tempo and consequently there may be unauthorised information he should call a TD. He may do so at any time before the opening lead is made.
- ♠ Declarer enters the score on the tablet and both defenders confirm the score. After confirming the score on the last board played, players should leave the playing room as quickly and quietly as possible. Players are strictly forbidden to watch play at any table.
- ♠ The time for a request for a TD ruling ends 30 minutes after the end of the match.
- ♠ As for asking for a review, or a score change, please make reference to the appropriate section of the Supplemental Conditions of Contest.

SYSTEMS

- ♠ The event is classified as CATEGORY 3: no HUM nor brown stickers are allowed at any time
- ♠ Pre-registration of systems is required
- ♠ Upload your system cards at:
<https://championships.eurobridge.org/european-winter-transnational-championships-2026>
- ♠ If you want to make a change in a pre-registered system, you should seek the approval of Maurizio Di Sacco (Operations Director and System Coordinator)



INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILLING IN THE SYSTEM CARDS

All players must have a filled out EBL or WBF Systems (Convention) Card available at all events.

Put the player names (and team name if necessary) both on the front and back of the card and also on the Supplementary Sheets.

In filling out the Cards you should **follow the instructions** in:

- ♠ the Guide to Completion of the WBF System Card (<https://www.eurobridge.org/regulations/systems>)
- ♠ Section 7 of the Supplemental Conditions of Contest.

You are expected to inform opponents as fully as possible of your methods. Your own "standard" or "normal" may not be theirs.

In particular pay special attention to the following items. Non-compliance with these may render a card not suitable and liable for a fine, and require a WBF standard Card to be used instead.

You may, if necessary, refer to Supplementary sheets.

♠ DO NOT USE "weak", "preemptive", "destructive" etc.

Instead state (at least approximately) the HCP range for openings, overcalls and responses. If this depends on position and/or vulnerability, tell how.

♠ Describe responses to all openings and overcalls (such as new suit, jump new, cue, jump cue). Just "Relay" or "Enquiry" is not sufficient.

♠ Be specific about how you use transfers and "switch" agreements with or without competition.

With what does opener accept a transfer after 1♣ – 1♦?

Does a transfer after 1X – (1Y) – D promise suit or may it be values with later support?

Which bids **are** transfer? Do they include NT or cue bids?

♠ After opponents 1NT: Is your defence different against weak NT? Specify what "weak" is to you.

♠ AVOID USING NAMES.

♡ If you use a name there may be more than one meaning. Explain your meaning.

♡ If space is needed refer to a numbered note in the Supplementary sheets.

♡ For example:

♣ Don't use "Smith", "modified Smith", reverse "Smith". Instead use "Smith, LOW enc by both".

♣ "Gazilli"; explain your way, also continuation by opener and responder

♣ Other names needing clarification include Cappelletti, Drury, Ghestem, Hamilton, Kaplan, Kokish, Lebensohl, Muiderberg, Niemeyer, Rosenkranz, Truscott, Turbo, Wilklosz, Woolsey

♠ Any item on the Card that is clarified in the supplementary sheets must have a reference to a numbered note.

⚠ ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE SYSTEM COMMITTEE

Please take note that in EBL events the official interpretation of "second and fourth" related to carding (leads) is simply the opposite of "third and fifth".

Meaning that you always lead the second from two or three (e.g. the 4 from 74 and the 6 from 1063), the fourth from four or five (e.g. the 2 from 8632 and the 4 from 86542).

Would you lead instead, as an example, the 6 from 863 and the 3 from Q63, you must explain this method as "attitude".

The Chairman
Maurizio Di Sacco



DROP IN REGULATIONS

Once you are eliminated from an event, you can join another one...

but under certain conditions!

Check the drop-in regulations below.

⚠ **VERY IMPORTANT: REGISTER NOW TO YOUR PLAN B!**

To be eligible to drop in, teams or pairs **MUST register before the start of the event** they intend to drop into.

⚠ **Does your team wish to drop in? Then you CAN'T register more than one team**

(...unless your team's composition makes you eligible for the Mixed Teams Championships and you wish to enter that event).

A team may only drop into the  Swiss Cup or the  BAM as a **full team** (e.g. it cannot split into 2 teams adding players who have not previously played). Players who wish to form new teams may only enter a different event from its first day. However, there is no such limit for Mixed Teams dropping into their dedicated competition.

⚠ **You can only drop in once**

Once a team/pair has dropped into an event they cannot change to another one anymore, unless starting it from its day one.

⚠ **From the Open to the Mixed**

A **Mixed Team** may include members who are still playing in the **Open Teams KO**. These players can join the Mixed Teams Championship once they are eliminated.

- ♠ If **at least 4 members** of the Mixed Team are available, the team must start the Mixed Championships on Day 1 (the remaining members will join once eliminated from the Open KO.).
- ♠ If **fewer than 4 members** are available, the team may wait until enough players are eliminated to field a full line-up.

⚠ **From Team to Pair(s)**

A team with 4 players can create a maximum of 2 drop-in pairs.

A team with 5/6 players can create a maximum of 3 drop-in pairs.

Each pair must contain at least one of the original members of the team.

⚠ **Last day: Mixed BAM**

After day 9 (18 February) Mixed Teams who do not qualify to the final can play the Mixed BAM.

⚠ **Coach and Non-Playing Captains**

A non-playing captain or coach may only enter an event already in progress if paired or teamed with players who are eligible to drop in.



⚠ CARRY-OVER

All drop-in teams and pairs will be receiving a **carry-over**, to be calculated and announced once all numbers – entries and potential drop-ins – will be finalised.

⚠ From the ● Mixed Teams to the ○ Mixed Pairs

Members of ● Mixed Teams can decide to move to ○ Mixed Pairs if they so wish, however:

- ♠ They MUST announce their withdrawal from the Mixed Teams competition before leaving the playing area.
- ♠ They MUST register for the Pairs competition not later than 8 pm the day before they intend to join.
- ♠ If they are to drop into the Pairs competition on its second day, they will be joining Semifinal B.

AFTER THE ● EUROPEAN WINTER OPEN TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

Teams eliminated from the knockout of the ● European Winter Open Teams Championship can drop in according to the following scheme.

⚠ Make sure to check all drop-in conditions and regulations on the previous page and at the top of this page.

OPTIONS

Losers of Round of 32

DROP IN

● European Winter Swiss Cup – Qualification – Day 2

⏰ **Registration deadline:** February 12, 8:00 PM

Losers of Round of 16

DROP IN

● European Winter Swiss Cup – Semifinal A – Day 1

⏰ **Registration deadline:** February 12, 8:00 PM

START

● European Winter Open Pairs

⏰ **Registration deadline:** February 14, 8:00 PM

START

● European Winter Open BAM

⏰ **Registration deadline:** February 14, 8:00 PM

START

● European Winter Mixed Teams

⏰ **Registration deadline:** February 14, 8:00 PM



⚠ Make sure to check all drop-in conditions and regulations on the previous pages.

Losers of Quarterfinals

DROP IN

● **European Winter Swiss Cup** - Semifinal A - Day 2

⚠ **Registration deadline:** February 12, 8:00 PM

DROP IN

● **European Winter Open pairs** - Semifinal A

⚠ **Registration deadline:** February 14, 8:00 PM

DROP IN

● **European Winter Open BAM** - Semifinal A

⚠ **Registration deadline:** February 14, 8:00 PM

DROP IN

● **European Winter Mixed Teams** - Qualification - Day 2

⚠ **Registration deadline:** February 14, 8:00 PM

Losers of Semifinals

DROP IN

● **European Winter Swiss Cup** - Final

⚠ **Registration deadline:** February 12, 8:00 PM

DROP IN

● **European Winter Open Pairs** - Final

⚠ **Registration deadline:** February 14, 8:00 PM

DROP IN

● **European Winter Open BAM** - Final

⚠ **Registration deadline:** February 14, 8:00 PM

DROP IN

● **European Winter Mixed Teams** - Semifinal A - Day 1

⚠ **Registration deadline:** February 14, 8:00 PM

START

● **European Winter Mixed Pairs**

⚠ **Registration deadline:** February 16, 8:00 PM

Finalists after the Final

DROP IN

● **European Winter Mixed Teams** - Semifinal A - Day 2

⚠ **Registration deadline:** February 14, 8:00 PM

DROP IN

● **European Winter Mixed Pairs** - Semifinal A

⚠ **Registration deadline:** February 16, 8:00 PM

⚠ We remind you that in order to be eligible to drop in into any of the available events (see drop in regulations) **you need to register for them even if you are qualified to the KO of the main event**, and you must do it before the start of the event you intend to drop into (e.g. if you wish to drop into the Swiss Cup, you must register for it before February 12 at 8 pm; if you wish to drop into the Open Pairs you must register before February 14 at 8 pm and so forth).

Not doing it timely will result in your right to drop in to be forfeited.

Please help us by doing your registration as soon as you can! Many thanks.

Maurizio Di Sacco
EBL Operations Director



Public Transportation

Public transport is cheap, and comfortable for short distances, especially downtown, and will take you almost anywhere (use Google Maps for directions, tickets, and best options for travel).

From the airport

By Uber or Bolt: ~35 minutes, approximately €30–40 per car.
Download the apps for the best price.

By public transport: just one ticket for €2 per person — buy it at the bus stop at the airport.
The journey takes 70–90 minutes (and requires changing from bus to metro to bus).

🍽️ Lunch & Catering at TOP Hotel

All the following options are located directly in the hotel, within a max 1-minute walk of the playing areas.

Lunch menu at restaurant India (hotel lobby)

Daily soup +
 Second course +
 Soft drink
for ~10€

4 different choices a day, every day different

Orders for the lunch menu between 11:30 and 15:00

à la carte menu, from 14:00-23:00 (food orders till 22:00)

Capacity ~80 seats at the same time

Congress Hall Bar (next to main venue)

Baguettes soups salads, coffee, soft drinks, ...
 Opening hours 9:00-15:00

Cafe Lobby Bar (Hotel Lobby)

Coffee, alcoholic & non-alcoholic beverages, ...
 Opening hours 11:00-01:00



Restaurant Tips

☀️ LUNCH BREAK: Eat at the venue

There are only a few restaurants within walking distance of the venue, and the lunch break is too short to reach them comfortably. **We recommend using the hotel's lunch options** during the day (see Lunch & Catering).

🌙 DINNER: Explore local options downtown 🚚

In the evening, we recommend heading downtown for dinner — use **Uber** or **Bolt**. Google Maps is a reliable guide: any restaurant rated **4.2 or above** serves very good food, and anything **above 4.5** is expected to be exceptional (fast-food chains excluded).

👉 We recommend **booking a table in advance**, especially for Friday and Saturday evenings. For **Valentine's Day** (Saturday, 14 February), book several days ahead.

⭐**Tips of 5–10%** are customary; in the Czech Republic, people usually round up the bill or use the tip buttons when paying by card. 95% of restaurants accept card payments (100% downtown).

🍺 And here's a **golden rule of Czech dining**: if the restaurant serves Pilsner Urquell on tap — preferably tank beer — the food is guaranteed to be high quality. Other beer chains also care about their brand.

🍽️❤️ Still not sure where to eat? **Follow David Gold on Instagram (@eatlikegold)** — your unofficial dining guide for the Championships!



Czech money

The currency is the **Czech Crown** (Česká koruna).

You should be able to pay everywhere with Visa or Mastercard; other types may have restrictions, so it's better to check before if your card will be accepted (often sign on the door).

The **1 EUR = 24 CZK** exchange rate is very fair; anything below 22 CZK is robbery.

Withdrawing cash from an ATM is better than changing it at an exchange office. If not necessary, do not exchange/withdraw at the airport or hotel ATM. There are plenty of ATMs operated by the banks, almost every corner downtown, and they should not charge any fee.



Other Hotel Information

Ask the hotel reception for more information.

🏃 SPA & SPORTS FACILITIES

⌚ Open 13:00-21:00 - 2-hour entry for 350 CZK (~15 EUR)

🏃 FITNESS CENTER

⌚ Open 24/7 - QR code entry - Direct card payments

🎾 TENNIS COURTS

⌚ Open 7:00-22:00

⚠ Operated by an external company - Advance reservations recommended
<https://www.tophotel.cz/en/wellness/tennis/>

♨ HEATING

The hotel's heating is central and cannot be adjusted in individual rooms.
 Although we expect cold weather, rooms tend to be warm rather than cold - feel free to open the windows for a cool breeze (at your own risk!).

🎳 BOWLING & CASINO

Permanently closed.



Prague Weather Forecasts

Expect **typical Central European winter weather** during the Championships.

Temperatures will hover between 0°C and 5°C, with highs occasionally reaching 7-8°C towards the end of the week. Overnight temperatures may drop below zero.

Light rain or snow showers are possible throughout the event — bring a warm coat and an umbrella just in case.



Final team briefing... Czech style!
 From left: Monika, Anna, Moonga,
 Lutangu, Kabeleka, Milan

Championship specials



The new **dealing machines** used to duplicate the boards during the Winter Games are sold for **€2650**.

Cards played at the 2025 World Championships are sold for **€80/100 decks**.

These offers are on so long as supply lasts, but no longer than February 19. Shipping from Sweden. Machines can alternatively be picked up at the end of the venue. Email anna@jannersten.com to order.