

Lady Milne Programme 2021

Match Officials

Tournament Directors; Chris Benneworth, Colin Simcox, Rob Sassoon, Sarah Amos, Gordon Rainsford (Scoring)

Match Managers: Charlie Bucknell, Helen Hall

Schedule and Format

Friday	17.00 – 19.10	D v F	C v E	B v A
	19.25 – 21.35	D v F	C v E	B v A
Saturday	10.00 – 12.10	A v C	B v D	F v E
	12.25 – 14.35	A v C	B v D	F v E
<i>Interval</i>				
	15.20 – 17.30	E v A	F v B	C v D
	17.45 – 19.55	E v A	F v B	C v D
Sunday	10.00 – 12.10	B v C	A v F	E v D
	12.25 – 14.35	B v C	A v F	E v D
<i>Interval</i>				
	15.20 – 17.30	F v C	E v B	D v A
	17.45 – 19.55	F v C	E v B	D v A
	20.10	Online Presentation		

Team A: England

Team B: Wales

Team C: Northern Ireland

Team D: Scotland

Team E: NIBU

Team F: Ireland

RealBridge Links

[Link to Session Links](#)

[Player Link](#)

[Kibitzing Link](#)

Team Rosters and Player Biographies

System Cards can be found [here](#)

England

Nevena Senior

I started playing bridge during my final year at University, and my first husband introduced me to the game.

I am a Middlesex member and play almost all my club bridge in London-Andrew Robson's bridge club, Young Chelsea bridge club, Ace of clubs bridge club and more.

National success: In Bulgaria my best achievement was winning the National Open Teams Championship. In England I've won numerous Ladies Teams and finished in third place, two times in the Crockfords.

Internationally, I've won 12 medals from European and World Championships for three different countries (on paper - as they are Bulgaria, Great Britain and England).

My best achievements were winning the European Ladies Pairs in 1987 in Brighton, winning the European women's team in 2012, and winning the gold in the two Mind Sports Games Olympics in Beijing in 2008 and Lille in 2012.

In my free time I like the gym, jigsaw puzzles, reading, the Saturday Times crossword, football betting, cooking, concerts, cinema, and theatre. Unfortunately as I work as a bridge pro and live in Nottingham, it involves lots of travelling around the country, and I lack free time to do everything I want to.

Diana Nettleton

Diana is an enthusiastic player and has had the opportunity to play in a number of international events - the most exciting for her was the 2019 Europeans in Turkey.

The move to online bridge has provided a chance to play in some of the Alt mixed teams events which she has enjoyed very much. However she is equally committed to grass roots Bridge, supporting her local club and her county Oxfordshire. Diana is excited to play in her first Lady Milne which everyone agrees has been a long time coming!

Helen Erichsen

I started playing bridge at the ripe old age of 30 having been bribed into taking up the game by my father.

I have had some success playing in mixed tournaments with my husband Espen Erichsen. We won the European Mixed Teams in 2005 and were 4th in the same event in 2013. More recently we won the Norwegian Mixed Pairs in 2016.

I have been playing with Fiona Brown for just over a year and what a year it's been. I am delighted to be representing England with Fiona as my partner for the second year in a row. I was also thrilled to win the Northern Swiss Pairs with her in 2016.

When I'm not playing bridge I can generally be found in the garden.

Fiona Brown

"I am from the beachy Australian town of Ballina situated in the North East of New South Wales. From a very young age I can remember watching my mum host bridge games at home. I was told I learnt through osmosis.

When I was 11 my mum took me to the Ballina bridge club which was hosted in the Senior Citizen Hall. On my second game we scored 56% and finished 2nd. We were then told that I wouldn't be able to play bridge in Ballina anymore because in order to be allowed in the Senior Citizen Hall I had to be over 50. There was big uproar and the club split so now there are two clubs in Ballina -The Ballina Bridge Club and the Ballina Senior's where I'll be able to play in 2035.

I was fortunate enough, with the help of Peter Gill to become involved in the Australia junior scene where I met other players my own age and saw a whole different life to the game.

In 2005 I met my boyfriend Hugh McGann at the Gold Coast Congress (best tournament on the calendar – everyone should go!) We live in Harrogate and occasionally play together. We came 4th in the world mixed pairs, 9th in the 2011 European mixed pairs, 5th in the teams and have a 1st and 2nd in the Scarborough congress.

My friendship and partnership with Susan Stockdale began in 2008. Our debut event was the first Channel Trophy girls' event. In the most crucial match against France: Susan found a great 6NT bid and me being eager to impress raised her to 7NT which got doubled and after the leader cashed their ace proceeded to go one down. Despite this we went on to win the event. Susan even forgave me and since then we haven't looked back. As a pair we have represented England twice in the Lady Milne, played in the English under 28 team which finished 5th in the World Mind Sports, played on the European English Women's team that qualified 5th and then later that year went to Eindhoven and played in the Venice Cup, coming fourth.

Together with the England Women's team, I won Gold at the European Women's Teams in Dublin, and we followed this with Gold at the World Mind Sports Olympiad in Lille in 2012.

At present I work part time in an independent pharmacy which allows me the flexibility to play as much bridge as I like. Apart from bridge and work I regularly attend the gym and never miss a 'Body Pump' class. I like good wine, most beer, watching sport and quiz nights. My favourite bridge book is Card Play Technique and my favourite player to kitbitz is Geir Helgemo."

Sally Brock

I started playing bridge with my parents when I was 14. It was only social rubber bridge but they were quite keen, and I guess I played a couple of times a week with them when I was in the sixth form. Then I went to Nottingham University, joined the bridge club there and subsequently married Tony Sowter. The bridge flourished and I played in my first Lady Milne, with Sally Eggett, in 1976, heavily pregnant with my son Ben.

I played in my first European Championship in 1979 with Sandra Landy, which we won. And we won again in 1981 and also the Venice Cup that year.

Round about then my marriage broke up and in December 1981 I married Mark Horton. The British women won the world championship again in 1985. The Landy/Horton bridge partnership broke up in 1987 and I started playing with Steve Lodge. We got very close to making the open team but not quite close enough. In 1991 my marriage again finished and in 1993 I married Raymond Brock. At that time I gave up any interest in international bridge to have two children, but started playing again in 2000 - in the mixed teams in Maastricht with Jason Hackett. I formed a partnership with Margaret Courtney and we won the European Championship in 2001 in Tenerife. In 2003 and 2004 I played with Kitty Teltscher. Our best performance resulted in a bronze medal in the 2004 Olympiad in Istanbul. Sadly Raymond died in early 2008 after a short illness.

At the end of 2008 I was brought in to form a scratch partnership with Nicola Smith in order to join the England Women's team for the World Mind Sports Games, where we won the gold medal. We then became a regular partnership, contending the Venice Cup in 2011 (4th), 2013 (2nd) and 2015 (3rd). In that period we also played in four European Championships with medals in 2012 (gold), 2014 (silver) and 2016 (gold). We also won the world women's teams in Lille in 2012, Sanya in 2014 and Orlando in 2018. In 2017 we changed partnerships and I was runner-up in the Venice Cup in partnership with Fiona Brown.

Nowadays I make living mostly by professional bridge of one sort or another: writing (I am the columnist for the Sunday Times, and also write for Mr Bridge), playing and teaching online. For the last few years I have formed a partnership, both at and away from the bridge table, with Barry Myers. I am squad leader on the Under 26 women, and captained them to win the bronze medal in the European Championship in 2017, and, with less success, in the 2018 World Championship and 2019 European Championships.

Sally received the Diamond Award from the EBU in November 2017 in recognition of her outstanding contribution to England's international teams. In 2019 Sally was inducted into the European Hall of Fame.

Nathalie Shashou

Nathalie is usually found partnering Nick Sandqvist, and this Lady Milne finds herself partnering Sally Brock. Nathalie is frequently at the top end of the national congresses and has partaken in many international events and started playing a bit more since the online game has developed.

David Burn – NPC

David was born in 1956 in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. He was educated Dulwich College and Caius, Cambridge, and is an IT consultant.

He has played for England in 7 Camrose matches, 1 European Championships and 1 World Olympiad

He coached Britain to Bermuda Bowl silver medal (1987) and victory in the European championships (1991), has coached the highly successful England Women's team over recent years, picking up numerous medals, including victory in the 2016 European Championships and silver medals in the 2013 and 2017 Venice Cups, and aided the Senior team in their victory in the 2014 European Championships. He has also acted as NPC for recent Camrose teams.

He is divorced with no children, and lives in London with a cat called Christopher Marlowe.

He is a popular bridge journalist, writing his own columns and often ghost writing for Zia Mahmood.

His other interests include reading, classical music, going to the theatre, and enjoying beer and curry.

David received the Diamond Award at the 2015 EBU AGM in recognition of his excellence and success over a sustained period for England's international teams.

Oliver Burgess – Coach

At the age of 37, I am finally making my Lady Milne debut! Bridge has always been a big part of my life but last year, I decided to quit my legal job to do bridge full time. I am the current manager of the Young Chelsea Bridge Club based in London and although the bridge club cannot physically open at the moment, I am having the best time of my life.

This weekend, I will be in charge of organising the team Zoom chats and making sure my team make it to the correct table. That aside, I find watching bridge quite stressful so I am hoping my team do not put me through the ringer!

Wales

Aida Disley

This is my fourth time representing Wales in the Lady Milne, having played twice with Linda Greenland, finishing 2nd in 2012. I played with Susan Ingham in 2015 when Wales won the trophy. This year I am playing in a new partnership with Gilly Clench.

I live in Cardiff, and have two grown boys living in London. These days my favourite thing after bridge is walking in my spare time.

Gilly Clench

Gilly is the undisputed noisiest member of the team making her a first choice for captain of the Juniors. A thorough supporter of women's bridge she hopes you will all join her women's weekends which may well be online. Sadly the Prosecco and flowers you'll have to supply yourselves.

Ceri Pierce

This is Ceri's 9th or 10th Lady Milne, and her 2nd appearance with Mia, having previously played with Maggie Pierce (her wicked step-mother) for the past few years and Ann Hirst in a previous life, before children.

Mia has made her play a fiendish system and Ceri spends most of her time wondering what her bids might mean, but despite that they are getting on very well, both at and away from the bridge table. Ceri is very much looking forward to being unlocked at some point and hopes that next year we will be able to play face to face and welcome you all to Wales. No doubt there will be a sing-song led by the team opera singer.

Away from the table, Ceri has three now grown-up offspring, who show no interest whatsoever in bridge.

Northern Ireland

Sandie Millership and Moya Kelly

Sandie has played in 5 different Lady Milnes with 3 different partners. This is her 1st time playing with Moya. She is a retired Pharmacist and has been volunteering in a Covid 19 vaccination centre since the beginning of the year. She now spends a lot of her time coaching and captaining the Juniors. Due to this, she will be very pleased when hairdressers reopen and she can get the grey hair coloured again.

Moya is playing in her 7th Lady Milne but this is the first time partnering Sandie. She is a retired civil servant and enjoys a game of golf, walking, canasta and cryptic crosswords.

Mary Kelly-Rogers and Anne Fitzpatrick

Mary has given her time to the game of Bridge, spanning several decades, more as an administrator than as a player. The highlights for her have been working as assistant match Manager when Ireland came back to the Lady Milne and Camrose series in the 90s, as a member of the working team for the inaugural Warren Buffett, Inaugural Seniors Congress, Millennium Congress and as IBU President for Europeans 2012 in Dublin. Since 2014 Mary has worked as a member of the EBL Women's Committee. Mary lives in Dublin but is delighted as a 'Fermanagh girl' to be representing the NIBU on a Lady Milne team with one of her favourite partners of all time, Anne Fitzpatrick.

Anne is a partner in an accountancy firm in Belfast. She is Hon. Treasurer of the NIBU and the IBU. She is very much looking forward to playing with Mary in their second Lady Milne together. Unfortunately Anne could not play in last year's competition as she had qualified for the Teltscher trophy.

Diane Greenwood and Helen Hall

Diane has played in many Lady Milnes and has played in the Camrose with both her husband David and the late Martin Devlin. She has represented Ireland in Europeans and also World Championships. As a bridge instructor she has travelled on cruises to Antarctica and The Falklands, sailed down the Amazon, and many other places. As well as bridge her main love in life is gardening, having undertaken a horticultural diploma at an Agricultural College and now grows her own plants and vegetables and does voluntary work at Antrim Castle Gardens.

Helen is a retired businesswoman having set up her own software company in 1990 and selling it in 2016. Since then, she has devoted herself to playing golf, tennis and spending time with her 2 grandchildren in Scotland. Helen represented Northern Ireland in the Junior Camrose in the late 1970's but retired from bridge shortly afterwards to bring up her 3 boys. Returning from retirement, she played in the Lady Milne on several occasions. She is very much looking forward to her first outing with Diane Greenwood.

Alan Hill NPC

Alan, a retired University Lecturer, has been NPC of the Lady Milne team several times in the last few years. However, his association with Home Internationals goes back many years to the days of 'Referees' and he has much experience over the years as a TD (recently gaining a grade B at the EBL TD course in Antalya). He was Jt. Hon. Sec. of the IBU for several years and has been President of both the NIBU and the IBU. He enjoys reading – mostly thrillers – gardening and watching cricket and rugby.

Scotland

Fiona McQuaker

Fiona has played for Scotland in the women's team on numerous occasions, including reaching the semi-final of the World Games in Wroclaw and the Venice Cup in Wuhan. This is her 19th Lady Milne. Last month was her first Camrose match. She is a chartered accountant working in Edinburgh.

Fiona has recently taken up fantasy football and was quietly amused to find herself at the top of the Butler and the Scottish bridge players fantasy football league in the same week.

Fiona considers resilience to be a useful attribute in bridge as in life, and has seen many positive examples of it within the bridge community. She trusts that if the select number of us online LM players grows it is for positive reasons.

Fiona looks forward to being able to go to the theatre again soon, also more immediately to the entertainment of seeing the Lady Milne participants and organisers on Zoom this weekend!

Liz McGowan

This will be my 35th Lady Milne, so I have long since run out of things to say.

I am delighted that the new British Online Junior Pairs Championship has a Trophy in my name.

I would like to congratulate one of the many Juniors I have captained over the years, Graham Hazel, on his brainchild, RealBridge, which has made such a difference to our online experience.

Laura Middleton

This is my third Lady Milne and I'm delighted it's going ahead albeit online.

Bridge online has been a real bonus during the past year of lockdowns when other activities have been curbed. I've probably had more practice than ever and have enjoyed 'seeing' bridge friends.

My other passions are my dogs and horse - basically getting out in the countryside.

I am very lucky to have a husband who understands and enjoys the game of bridge.

Ying Piper

My father introduced me to bridge when I was at school. In 1987, the Chinese Provincial Sport Division sent retired (who were in their 50's!) Open Team members to Universities to teach bridge. We didn't know anything about Acol however: we were taught by our mentor Mr Zhang to play control responses after 2C opening! Being the playing captain of the Women's squad of Sichuan University was one of my fondest memories.

Another highlight of my bridge experience was in 2001 playing against the former Chinese Premier and other government officials which was a rare occasion! To my delight the Chinese legend woman player Zhu Xiao Yin partnering Deng Nan (daughter of former President Deng Xiao Ping) sitting E/W came to our table: she was my inspiration to play.

My previous International experience has been in the 1998 World Championship Women's Pairs, and the Mixed Teams in the 2004 World Team Olympiad.

This is my first appearance in the Lady Milne.

Samantha Punch

Sam has played in the Scottish women's team since 2008, with six Lady Milne wins. She is Professor of Sociology at the University of Stirling where she is leading several research projects on the Sociology of Bridge. *Bridge: A MindSport for All* (BAMSA) has had two academic papers recently published and a new website has just been launched. You are all invited to participate in the virtual BAMSA conference 28 June-1 July 2021 bringing together academics, practitioners and policy makers in the bridge world to discuss the opportunities and challenges of the new bridge normal. Sign up for free here: [BAMSA Conference 2021 - Bridge A MindSport for all - BAMSA \(bridgemindsport.org\)](https://www.bridgemindsport.org)

Anne Symons

Anne has been a regular member of the womens team for many years, and has also represented Scotland in Camrose, and Mixed Teams. She still works as a pharmacist 2-3 days a week but looks forward to retiring in a few months' time, when she can spend more time with her gorgeous wee grandson.

Her biggest regret is losing narrowly in the semi-final of the World Bridge Games in Wroclaw, and thinking she could have played so much better! Her highlight was the team qualifying for the Venice Cup in 2018 – a fantastic experience.

Anne and Sam are a new partnership and this is their first Lady Milne together. She is looking forward to her first serious outing with Sam – should be fun!

Finlay Marshall npc

Finlay is a retired actuary who worked in a private practice. He has won most of Scottish Bridge's principal events, his highlight being captaining his team to three successive Scottish Cup wins back in the 1990s. He first represented his country in 1986. He has also contributed to the administration of

Scottish bridge, and was the President of the Scottish Bridge Union in 1981/82. He has had npc experience in the Camrose Series, but this is his first time as npc of the Lady Milne team.

NIBU

Dymphna Friel and Toni Sproule

“I am looking forward to playing in the Lady Milne – first time, online. It is taking place on my daughter’s birthday, so hoping that’s a good omen.”

Dymphna

“I have enjoyed playing for Northern Ireland in the Lady Milne competition on several occasions and although this year means a different format, the competition will, hopefully, be as equally challenging and enjoyable. I have attempted to play this (often infuriating) game for more years than I care to remember but hey, couldn’t envisage life without the stimulus of bridge! My 3 children also benefit as they know where I can be found most nights of the week! “

Toni

Clare Watson and Heather Hill

Clare is happily retired having worked in education for too many years to count. She enjoys walking and keeping fit. Clare has played many times on the Lady Milne team for NI with 5 different partners. She and Heather have an established partnership and have enjoyed playing on BBO and Best Bridge in recent lockdown times.

Heather is a retired Maths teacher who still works for her local exam board both as reviser and team leader for A level maths. Her other interests include travel - to Boise Idaho and Newcastle upon Tyne to spend time with grandchildren, cruising and city breaks in Europe. She also enjoys walking, yoga and doing cryptic crosswords. She has played lady Milne a number of times - this the 6th time with Clare.

Shelagh McCaughan and Florence Boyd

‘I am pleased and proud to be part of the Lady Milne competition again this year, having previously participated on several occasions.’

Shelagh

Florence is a retired chemistry teacher from Belfast. She has played many times over the years on the Lady Milne team.

Harold Curran NPC

‘I am proud and honoured to be NPC for the first time for our Lady Milne team. Looking forward to a great weekend of bridge.’

Harold

Ireland

Joan Kenny and Jeannie Fitzgerald

Joan is a retired Maths teacher from Ballinrobe, Co Mayo who is now hooked on BBO. She would be very happy to “pull a pint” for any visitors to Galway in the family licensed premises – thus doing her bit for the returning diaspora! Joan has played on six previous Lady Milne teams, once with Brid Kirby, twice with Emer Joyce and five times with Teresa Rigney, and on numerous European & World Championship teams.

Jeannie, living in Ennis, Co Clare, is involved in technology research and development, having completed a PhD in computer science as a mature student in the University of Limerick, She has won many representative caps playing with Ena Cleary and Emer Joyce, at Lady Milne, European & World level.

This is their first Lady Milne as a partnership, and they will represent Ireland in the next European National Teams Championship – hopefully in Madeira in 2022.

Hilary McDonagh & Gilda Pender

Hilary is a psychology lecturer, bridge teacher and worked for the CBAI at National Headquarters before retiring to Ballaghaderreen to raise her family.

She has represented Ireland extensively at Junior level and at numerous European ladies’ events. She achieved great success with Rebecca O’Keeffe winning every Irish ladies title and many open honours. She then developed a strong partnership with Anne-Marie Horan with whom she played on three Lady Milne teams; playing with Gilda, they have played in two European Championships, in Dublin in 2012 and in Croatia in 2014.

Gilda is an IT merchant – more Project Manager style – but she has the distinction of having been admiral of her own fleet – of ATMs!!

This is Gilda’s fifth Lady Milne – she previously played with her sister, Noreen, in 2006 and the remainder with Hilary.

Rebecca O’Keeffe Brown & Siobhan Part

Rebecca is an actuary who relocated to London for work and marriage early in her career. With two boys almost off the payroll, she now has time to return to bridge, and resume her place in the O’Keeffe bridge teaching dynasty. Rebecca played on many representative teams with her mother, Aileen, including playing on the CBAI Lady Milne team on the first occasion following Ireland’s return to the event in 1998.

Rebecca will play with Gilda in Madeira in 2022.

Siobhan is from Kildare, just outside Dublin, and works as a nurse in a large Dublin teaching hospital. She learned to play bridge in school and played for 3 years before taking a long break. She returned to bridge 10 years ago and has played with Teresa Rigney & B J O’Brien since then, learning good habits (mostly!) This is Siobhan’s first Lady Milne outing.

Paul Porteous

Paul has been CEO of the CBAI since 1992 and will retire from that position in September this year! He has represented Ireland on Junior (long, long ago!) & Mixed Teams at European events but finds the excitement of online kibitzing as much as he can handle at present. This is his first outing as Lady Milne NPC, but has acted in that role with Irish Ladies' Teams at European level and with Open & Senior teams at Home Internationals.