



10th EBL NBO Officers' Seminar

University Bridge

Geert Magerman

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EUSA & FISU Organisations

EUSA

- www.eusa.eu
- Competition between universities
- Major events:
 - EUSA games in even years (+/- 4000 participants)
 - European Championships in +/- 20 sports in odd years
 - Bridge and chess integrated in Mind Sports Championships in odd years

FISU

- www.fisu.net
- Competition between university bridge teams from countries
- Major events:
 - Summer universiades (+/- 8.000 athletes) in odd years
 - Winter universiades (+/-2.000 athletes) in odd years
 - World Championships in +/-40 sports in even years
- Recognition by FISU in China: bridge teaching required/foreseen at all universities (e.g. in small university city Xuzhou, 2000 students at the university get bridge teaching)

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Bridge History and Future Events

EUSA

- Recognised as a sport in 2007
- Collaboration agreement EUSA & EBL: mutual promotion on university bridge
- 4 European University Bridge Championships (2009-Opatija, 2011-Warsaw, 2013-Kraljevica, 2015-Warsaw; 2017- Fuengirola)
- 2 Mind Sport University Championships (2017-Fuengirola, 2019-Budapest)
- EUSA Games: 2016 (Zagreb)
- Future:
 - 2021: 3rd Mind Sport Championships (Livin in Ukraine - to be confirmed)
 - Bridge demonstration or final EUSA games to be negotiated

FISU

- Recognised as a sport in 2003
- Collaboration agreement WBF & FISU
- 8 FISU World University Bridge Championships (2004-2018)
- Future: Mindsports championships
 - 9/2020: 1st in Bydgoszcz, Poland
 - 9/2022: 2nd in Antwerp, Belgium (tbc)
 - 2024: 3rd in Uganda (tbc)

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FISU Mind Sports Championships 2020

- **Main information**

- - Organiser : FISU (International University Sports Federation, www.fisu.net) and WBF
- - City: Bydgoszcz, Poland
- - Dates: 11-16/09/2020
- - Format: National University teams (students may be from different universities)
maximum 3 teams per country
- - Entries: via the National University Sports Federation (check via www.fisu.net)
3 forms to enter
- - Eligibility: check via the NUSF, students between 17 and 25 years old
Holding the nationality of the country
- - Costs +/- €70 per person/day (all included, except transportation)
- - Email OC wucmindsports2020.ukw.edu.pl
- - All info geert.magerman@telenet.be, www.unibridge.eu
and facebook "Uni bridge"

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EUSA Championships & Games

EUSA Games: Bridge included in EUSA games 2016

- Cordoba (2012), Rotterdam (2014), Rijeka/Zagreb (2016), Coimbra (2018), Belgrade (2020), 2022 and 2024 venues already organised
- In Rotterdam in 2014, a demonstration with 4 university bridge teams was held. Bridge was not an official sport, but a demonstration sport.
- Bridge was an official sport in Zagreb 2016, see video of the games:
 - <https://www.eusa.eu/events/games/zagreb-rijeka-2016>

1st EUSA Mindsport Championships Budapest 2019

- 14 university bridge teams
- Good bridge level
- High standard bridge event (with optional additional tablet event)

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Online Bridge Events

- Online university bridge
 - Pairs championships every month on BBO from 2008
 - Team championships launched by WBF & FISU in 2008
 - A good way to detect captains and university bridge players to promote university bridge events from FISU and EUSA
 - Strong participation from countries who never come to physical events: Bangladesh, India, Romania, Bulgaria, Russia, ...
- FISU
 - On average 50 to 60 university teams
 - 6th World University bridge event was launched at end 2018
 - Start will be foreseen in April 2019 (pools followed by knock outs finals)
- EUSA
 - On average 30 university teams
 - 3 online championships have already been launched
- 2019: 6th online FISU/WBF ongoing (results on www.unibridge.eu)

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Value of Recognition by FISU and EUSA of Bridge as sport?

- **Context**
 - Strong collaboration & link between NUSF and National Olympic Organisations
 - (strong) positive image for bridge to be a sport among other sports
- **For NBOs**
 - A large number of top players got their first international experience in university bridge events
 - A way to convince their authorities to become an official sport in their country (with some financial benefits related to this). Some good examples exist.
 - Financial support to send teams to FISU or EUSA events in different countries (by universities or National University Sports Federations)
 - After obtaining medals, most NUSF pay contributions for teams at next university event
- **For bridge sport development**
 - After recognition by FISU of Bridge as a sport, bridge became an official course at universities in all China.
 - So bridge is taught at different universities. As an example, in the small city of Xuzhou (2 million inhabitants), every year 2000 students are taking bridge classes. But there are also bridge classes at universities in Europe (e.g. Italy)

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University Bridge: Challenges, New Strategy & Solutions

- **EUSA Championships: relaxation of regulations for participation and registration of university teams**
 - Registration of teams passes through the NUSF (National University Sports Federation) and some NUSF do not register teams for several reasons
 - Solution: an alternative registration via EBL would be made possible so university teams can be entered by universities directly via EBL registration office respecting the EUSA conditions. This would allow e.g. UK teams to participate!
- **NBOs: creation of bridge clubs in universities**
 - The creation of university bridge clubs is a win-win for EBL/EUSA and the NBO. The recognition of bridge by EUSA should facilitate being an official sport at the university and obtain facilities to exercise our sport.
 - In reality, the university bridge club will be run by youth and will be a HUB for university and youth players. Youth will be in their own environment and not in club with players of an average age of 60 or 70
 - The NBO or EBL can provide the material to start the new university club
 - EUSA championships, classes will be taught in how to create a university bridge club, based on some good examples (Denksportclub Antwerpen)
- **EBL: be a sport among others at EUSA games**
 - Being present as Bridge at the EUSA games, the biggest European sports event, among +/- 20 other sports
 - A demonstration can be held with 2 or 4 teams, which could be best ranked out of online bridge events

These new solutions have to be approved by EBL and EUSA EC. Your NBO opinion is important!

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University Bridge Club: Denksportclub Antwerpen (DUA) example in Belgium

- **Context**

- Created in 1995 (Mindsport club Antwerpen) by University Rector and Paul & Geert Magerman
- Today still attracting the most young people and still the youngest bridge club in Belgium
- Bridge is an official sport at University of Antwerp and gets the same financial support as other sports
- A Mindsport room has been built for training and competition at the university

- **Governance**

- The club is independent from any other (older club)
- Management of the club is by students with a lot of bridge and young non-bridge events
- Fast lessons (10 weeks of 2 hours)
- Integration of all students into competition directly after classes
- Club evening: 21 fast boards from 8PM to 10.15PM to allow students time to party afterwards
- Promotion via university and professors in classes

- **Tools**

- Guide to establishing a “university bridge club”
- 10 classes course of 2hours

The guide on how to establish a university bridge club will be explained to participating students at EUSA events .

DUA is a trial of new methods: the Flemish Bridge League will launch a facebook campaign in 2020 to encourage all aged 18-25 in Antwerp to come and start bridge at DUA!

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NBO Questionnaire: know your opinion!

- Please complete the NBOs questionnaire
 - Is there a person responsible within your NBO for university bridge?
 - Is there a university program at your NBO?
 - What are you doing already? Are there university bridge clubs already?
 - Are you interested in creating a university program or university clubs in your country?
 - What are your suggestions for this program?
 - What are your remarks for this program?
 - Do you need support/help? With what?
 - Are you interested in receiving the tools for university bridge clubs?
 - Do you want to meet me to discuss the content of this presentation in more detail?

 - Your name:
 - Your email:

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Thank you very much!!

Contact: geert.magerman@telenet.be

Tel +32477861213

EBL-EUSA Liaison Officer & FISU Technical Delegate