

EBL WOMEN'S ONLINE



The EBL Women's Teams April Series event on RealBridge was in preparation for a possible virtual qualification for the Worlds. President Jan Kamras, who joined us in a Zoom call afterwards, gave a strong impression that the qualification was more than possible, it was likely to happen and that the platform would be RealBridge in June.

19 teams took part in a round robin over two days playing 144 boards. Players from four time zones competed in what appeared to be a mammoth schedule, but in the end, all the reports were positive and constructive of this preparatory event.

19 EBL Women's teams are now one step further in their preparation for the likely world qualification and this event marked their determination to work and develop and do what is necessary to have a competitive and as real as possible event with all systems go.

While the EBL makes preparation for the likely qualification of the Worlds on RealBridge, women that played have been giving their feedback and both the EBL and RealBridge are interested in what they have to say. Clearly the EBL wants this to work for competitors and RealBridge is equally determined to listen and make whatever development is necessary to achieve the EBL goal.

Provided just in time for this event was Video Commentary in many languages. David Harari, Julius Linde, Gunther Dauwe, David Burn and Peter Pigot were our Commentators. It could be an exciting qualification to follow in many languages in June.

EBL WOMEN'S TEAMS APRIL SERIES

POLAND WINS



Cathy and Sophia Baldysz
Danuta Kazmucha, NPC Mirek Cichocki, Anna Sarniak
Justyna Zmuda, Kasia Duftrat

Poland was a strong contender and won the EBL Women's Teams April series. The team captained by Mirek Cichocki lost narrowly against Estonia on day one and lost heavily to Switzerland in the first match on day two but won all their other matches. This champion side that won the 54th European Team Championships, led after round three. Cathy Baldysz spoke in Zoom after their win, telling those present how good it was to see faces they knew so well and how much she looked forward to an actual live championship in the future.



Sophia says:-

'I think bridge has been difficult for everyone during these COVID times. Being so used to travelling and seeing people during bridge tournaments, it has been strange sitting at home in slippers playing an event, which just two years ago was held live. I think people aren't able to keep the high level of concentration in front of the screens

as they can live, since screens have been proven to be distracting. Looking forward to seeing live championships happen soon'.

Countries that played this event: Belgium, Denmark, England, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Scotland, Switzerland, Turkey, Wales.

Full Results here <https://kibitz.realbridge.online/>

Runners up Germany, captained by Julius Linde, had an impressive steady run which placed the team second after day one. Over the two days they lost to Norway, Poland, Turkey, Denmark, Hungary and drew against Ireland and England in the eighteen-match event. It was a heavy loss against Hungary, captained by player Orsolya Hegedus, that set the team back but they remained determined and retained their second place.

France, captained by player Véronique Bessis, came in to day two in fourth place and finished third. On day one they had only lost against England, Germany and Poland; the latter a heavy loss which must have been disappointing for the team. It was their first match of day two against Turkey that caused France the most concern. A defeat by Switzerland followed but apart from a draw against Ireland on the last round, France won their other second day matches, demonstrating the resolve of these top players.

TD Vigfús Pálsson was most efficient and his preparatory RB sessions were appreciated and helpful.

Shireen Mohandes was on hand at all times to quickly resolve any issues that might arise.

Thank you to the working teams below who played their part to make this event 'real' and useful. EBL Women are ready for a virtual qualification in June. That's good news.

Mary Kelly Rogers

EBL TEAM

EBL Women's Organiser
 Mary Kelly Rogers
 Commitment Forms, Catherine Vitry
 Convention Cards, Anna Gudge
 EBL Website, Fotis Skoularikis
 EBL Consultant TD Fearghal O'Boyle
 Entry Fees, Eric Laurant

RealBridge TEAM

Tournament Director
 Vigfús Pálsson
 RealBridge Consultant
 Shireen Mohandes

RUNNERS UP GERMANY



Mieke Plath, Gisela Smykalla, Susanne Kriftner, Annaig Della Monta
 Karin Wenning, Julius Linde (NPC), Andrea Reim, Ingrid Gromann
 Anne Gladiator

THIRD FRANCE



Catherine Mus, Anne-Laure Tartarin, Jennifer Mourgues
 Nathalie Frey Véronique Bessis, Sabine Rolland