



EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE

To: The Presidents of the EBL NBOs

Cc: EBL Executive Committee

Monday 14th June 2021

Dear Presidents,

Bridging Academia, Policy and Practice Virtual Conference

Monday 28 June – Thursday 1 July 2021

<https://bridgemindsport.org/bridging-academia-policy-practice-conference/>

All aspects of bridge – the good, the bad, and the ground-breaking – are on the table at a four-day virtual conference organised by **Bridge: A MindSport for All (BAMSA)**. By showcasing research and innovation, the conference aims to inspire and enable the bridge community to promote bridge more widely in society. The conference opens on Monday 28 June.

Our EBL President, Jan Kamras, and many others from within the EBL and its NBOs are contributing to this unique event which bridges the worlds between practice and policy of the bridge community and academia. We would appreciate it if you could forward the information on to your regional organisations and clubs, and include some information on your website. We also suggest that you select some individuals from your executive committee to attend some of the live sessions.

There is much choice so there should be something for everyone - many pre-recordings available now and the live presentations will not repeat any of these - the live debates will all be new material.

Some of the sessions should be of particular interest to NBOs - eg. 4B on marketing:

<https://bridgemindsport.org/bridging-academia-policy-practice-conference/conference-2021-day-4-session-4B/>

The gender and bridge session is likely to be a lively debate! (session 3B on Wed), cheating on Tuesday evening with the WBF, EBL and Boye Brogeland. The keynote address, Bridge and Wellbeing, will be delivered by Professor Martin Seligman, the founder of positive psychology, author of more than 30 books on learning and motivation and a lifelong bridge player.

29 June 2021 focuses on digital opportunities and challenges (11.30am-1.30pm UK time). And session 4A on the last day includes discussions of recruiting and retaining players, online teaching, expanding bridge in schools and youth bridge.

The conference is an open forum for academics, bridge players, organisers and policymakers from across the bridge spectrum (local, national and international). The aim is to provide a relaxed online environment in which to share ideas, review good practice and focus on solutions.



Conference sessions will consider key challenges facing the bridge sector: the collapse of face-to-face bridge in 2020 and the knock-on effect on bridge clubs; the hybrid future of the game after covid-19; and the scandal of online cheating. The bridge world is in a state of flux, but the huge take-up of online bridge and pioneering approaches to teaching, recruitment and marketing give cause for optimism.

Theoretical sessions will provide insights into current academic thinking and conceptual frameworks for understanding bridge. Tabled for discussion are definitions of sport, mindsport, serious leisure; and the light the game throws on gender, ageing, and interaction between people of different ages and generations.

The conference programme has eight sessions across four days, plus two playing sessions, a conference pairs tournament and a bridge taster for first-timers. Attendance at other sessions is not a condition of registering for either the tournament or the bridge taster.

Each day has its own theme:

- Day 1: Bridge as a Mindsport
- Day 2: Digital Bridge: Opportunities and Challenges
- Day 3: Healthy Ageing, Intergenerationality and Gender
- Day 4: Education, Development and Marketing

For more information or to register for any of the sessions go to: <https://bridgemindsport.org/bridging-academia-policy-practice-conference/>

With kind regards

Paul Porteous
Honorary Secretary



Conference poster: <https://bridgemindsport.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/bamsa-2021-conference-poster.pdf>

Programme pdf: <https://bridgemindsport.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/bamsa-2021-conference-programme.pdf>