

Report from Alan Hill on TD Course in Prague, February 2016.

The following is a report for Council on my trip to Prague. If anything comes out of the sessions I am running next week I will send you an addendum.

Firstly I would like to thank Council for supporting my trip to Prague. Secondly I would like to underline the quality of these courses and the presenters. Thirdly I am indebted to Fearghal O'Boyle for his help with my preparation and his support throughout.

The course was tougher than Alicante as one might expect. The format was an exam on arrival followed by six sessions of simulations finishing with an exam. All of which were assessed and part of the final result. This was interspersed with talks on a variety of subjects. Details can be found on the EBL site.

The standard of the participants was higher than at Alicante at the top end and I was pleased to make the top third (of approx 66). Both Diarmud Reddan (CBAI) and myself just missed being graded NBO International TDs. (But were considered 'successfully completed' rather than 'attended'.)

The situations we met can be quite complex but all are based on real events. Indeed one of them turned up at my own table in a recent tournament. (Can you think of a situation where the player on your left gets two separate opportunities to accept your insufficient bid? Hint, it was also out of turn.)

Based on material from the EBL courses I am giving two (duplicate) sessions to interested NIBU members. I have divided them on the basis of TD experience and playing ability. It is disappointing that so few of our top players showed an interest. I hope to have a further session with those unable to attend on the dates I chose and perhaps a follow up session with further material for those interested.

I would like to think that we could improve the knowledge of some of our budding TDs so that they could take advantage of these courses. Finally there is likely to be another course soon to cover the rules update due shortly.

Alan H