



PROGRAMME SPRING BANK HOLIDAY CONGRESS 2018



**26th – 28th May 2018
Crowne Plaza
Stratford-upon-Avon**

1 Introduction

Welcome to the Crowne Plaza (formerly Holiday Inn), where we have held the Spring Foursomes for many years, and the Spring Bank Holiday Congress for the last few years. There are two main playing areas in the hotel. All the events will be in the Grand Ballroom near the hotel's reception: the pairs finals and Swiss Pair on the Sunday, will be in a separate parts of the Grand Ballroom.

The host for this congress is Alastair Gidman who is there to welcome those playing in an EBU event for the first time and to help everyone with any non-bridge related matters, such as dealing with the hotel.

2 Times of play

Saturday

2:00pm - 5:30pm	Championship Pairs qualifier 1 (26 boards)
6:00pm	Dinner
7:30pm - 11:00pm	Championship Pairs qualifier 2 (26 boards)

Sunday

11:30am - 3:00pm	'A' and 'B' Pairs finals, session 1 (24 boards)
11:30am - 2:45pm	Swiss Pairs, session 1 (3 x 8-board matches)
	Lunch Break
3:30pm - 8:00pm	'A' and 'B' Pairs finals, session 2 (33 boards)
3:15pm - 7:30pm	Swiss Pairs, session 2 (4 x 8-board matches)

Monday

11:30am - 2:40pm	Stratified Swiss Teams, session 1 (3 x 7 boards)
	Lunch Break
3:10pm - 7:15pm	Stratified Swiss Teams, session 2 (4 x 7 boards)

* At the lunch breaks, the usual bar menu will operate – if you choose to go out of the hotel for lunch, you may not bring food back in with you to eat.

3 The Championship

***For the Championship Pairs Trophy – holders Kevin Castner & David Gold
For the Championships Pairs ‘B’ (George Mizel) Trophy
– holders Robert Miller & Bill Taylor***

This event commences on Saturday afternoon, and comprises two distinct stages.

Stage I: Championship Pairs, Saturday afternoon & evening

Approximately 30 tables will play two sessions, each of 26 boards, with a movement of lines between sessions. Arrow-switches will be introduced in all sections, so that scoring can be achieved across the field.

The leading 20 pairs (10 tables) will qualify for the main ‘A’ final: the next 20 pairs (10 tables) will qualify for the ‘B’ final [George Mizel Trophy]. There will be no carry-forward into either final.

There will be a movement of lines for session 2; starting positions for the finals will be prepared in advance, so as to equally balance all sections. The balancing process will be based entirely on the qualifying scores as appropriate. It is quite possible that pairs might meet each other in one of the qualifying sessions and the final.

Stage II: The ‘A’ and ‘B’ Championship Pairs finals

Both finals will be all-play-all events, played barometer style over two sessions. The first session, of 24 boards will be start on Sunday morning and the second session, of 33 boards, will be played on Sunday afternoon. Up-to-date results will be displayed on computer monitors during the sessions. Results slips will be issued to pairs at the start of the second session, as well as every two rounds or so during the final session.

Both finals will involve 10 tables. Identical boards will be in play in the two final but the boards will not be played in the same rounds in the two finals and the finals will be scored independently of one another.

4 Swiss Pairs

For the Swiss Pairs Trophy – holders David Armstrong & Jill Armstrong

This event starts on Sunday morning with the pairs eliminated from the main pairs' event on Saturday evening and with new pairs joining the congress at this point.

The event as a whole comprises two sessions. Three matches of eight boards are played in session 1 (starting on Sunday morning and four matches of eight boards are played in session 2 starting on Sunday afternoon.

5 Swiss Teams

For the Swiss Teams Trophy

– holders Stephen Kennedy, Ben Norton, Michael Byrne, Andrew Murphy

This is a one-day stratified event, comprising 3 x 7-board matches in session one and 4 x 7-board matches in session two.

Stratification:

'A': at least two members of the team are Premier Life Masters, or any player is a Grand Master or above (or is in the Gold Point top 60, or has the NGS grade of 'Ace').

'B': at least two members of the team are Premier Regional Masters or above and no more than one is a Premier Life Master.

'C': no more than one player is of the rank Premier Regional Master or above, and in any case no single player is a Premier Life Master or above.

Ranks are based on points earned, regardless of whether registered or not, on the day of the tournament. Overseas players with masterpoint records held outside of the UK are normally obliged to be considered as being Life Masters or above.

6 Special prizes (pairs event only)

Prizes of £40 per pair will be offered in each of the following categories:

- i) leading two Junior pairs (both under 26 at the start of the year — mark your name-slip with a 'J')
- ii) leading two non-expert pairs (mark your name-slip with an 'N')
- iii) session prizes of £40 per pair will also be awarded for the best single session score in each of the Championship Pairs qualifying sessions, plus the best overall qualifying score which has not already received a prize. Thus, three such prizes are available, which may be accumulated with prizes from the finals.

A non-expert pair is defined as one in which both players are below the rank of Premier Regional Master. Overseas visitors and players who have represented their country at any level are not eligible for non-expert prizes.

For the purpose of determining overall ranking, pairs competing in the Championship 'A' final will occupy the first 20 places; pairs in the Championship 'B' final will occupy places 21 to 40, and the Swiss Pairs winners will be deemed to be 41st overall.

No pair can win both a positional prize and a special category prize. A pair in this position will take the positional prize (which is always at least as much as the category prize), and the category prize will go to the next eligible pair in line who did not finish in the main prize list. Equally, no pair may win two category prizes. Should it appear that there is more than one way in which the category prizes can be allocated then the method which rewards the highest placed pairs will be selected.

At least one junior prize and one non-expert prize will be awarded in the Swiss Pairs competition: this may involve the necessity to create an additional prize in one or both of these categories.

7 Starting instructions

Saturday afternoon starting instructions (2:00pm)

The Championship Pairs qualifiers will be played in the Grand Ballroom. Starting positions have been prepared in advance.

A movement of lines will be provided to determine starting positions for the evening session.

Sunday starting instructions

The **Main Championship Pairs 'A' and 'B'** final (11:30am and 3:30pm) will be played in the left hand partitioned room of the Grand Ballrooms. Starting positions will be displayed.

The **Swiss Pairs** (11:30am and 3:15pm) will be played in main part of the Grand Ballroom. Pairs in this event should draw for a starting position from ½ hour before the start of the session.

Swiss Teams starting instructions: Monday (11:30 am)

The Stratified Swiss Teams will be played in the Grand Ballroom.

Please draw for a starting position from the playing area. These will be available from ¾ hour before the start of the session.

8 Prizes

All prizes are quoted throughout in terms of £ per pair in a pairs event or £ per team in a teams event. All prizes will be automatically credited to the member's EBU account, and may be redeemed at any time on application to the EBU.

Tied places share equally any prizes due even if the tie has been split for some other purpose. In the case of a tie for the last prize receiving place, one extra prize will be created (which will be of the same value as the prize for the last such place) and those pairs/teams who are tied will share the total fund which is then available.

The prizes quoted assume a particular level of entry, and are subject to alteration should the actual entry be significantly different from that originally envisaged. An appropriate announcement would be made before the half-way stage of the tournament in question should this eventuality arise.

Championship Pairs prizes

Prizes will be awarded the leading 4 pairs in the 'A' final, and to the leading 3 pairs in the 'B' final. All prizes are quoted in terms of £ per pair:

'A' Pairs final:

1st £220, 2nd £120, 3rd £80, 4th £40

'B' Pairs final [George Mizel Trophy]:

1st £140, 2nd £80, 3rd £40.

Swiss Pairs prizes

Prizes will be awarded to the leading 4 pairs in the final ranking:

1st £140, 2nd £80, 3rd £60, 4th £40.

Please see also section 6 for details of special prizes in the pairs events only.

Stratified Swiss Teams prizes

Main prize list (all three categories combined) – 3 prizes:

1st £220, 2nd £120, 3rd £80.

'B' and 'C' list combined – 2 prizes: 1st £80, 2nd £40.

'C' list only – 1 prize only: 1st £40.

Teams are limited to one prize per team, which shall be the highest one available to them. Any prize so released will be awarded to the next team in line in the appropriate category.

Thus, two prizes will be awarded to 'B' and 'C' level teams not finishing in the main prize list, though the actual values awarded may be different to those quoted above (as when there are higher ranked 'B' and 'C' level teams within the main prize list).

Similarly, one prize will always be awarded to a 'C' level team not finishing in either of the other two prize lists.

9 Master Point awards

All Master Points will be registered by direct credit. Please note however that your record may not show these points immediately. Ranking lists are available from our website at www.ebu.co.uk

Championship Pairs Master Points

At end of stage 2: 6.00 Blue Points for 1st — constant reductions to the equivalent of one-half of the original entry (minimum award of 0.24).

Finals: Green Point awards for all pairs in both finals.

'A' Pairs final: A top award of 8.00 and a minimum award of 2.00. Awards for intermediate places in accordance with the standard EBU congress formula.

'B' Pairs final [George Mizel Trophy]: A top award of 4.00 and a minimum award of 1.00. Awards for intermediate places in accordance with the standard EBU congress formula.

Swiss Pairs Master Points

0.28 Green Point per match won (0.14 for a draw).

Bonus Green Point ranking awards to the top one-eighth of the field.

A top award of 2.00 and a minimum award of 0.25. Awards for intermediate places in accordance with the standard EBU congress formula.

Stratified Swiss Teams Master Points

0.25 per match won (0.13 for a draw), with bonus ranking awards as follows:

Main ranking list (categories 'A' and 'B' combined) a top award of 4.00 green points, with a minimum of 0.50.

Category 'B' and 'C' combined: a top award of 2.00 green points with a minimum award of 0.25.

Category 'C' only ranking list: a top award of 1.00 green points with a minimum award of 0.13.

Awards extend to one-fifth of the field on each such list. Awards for subsequent places on each stratified list will be in accordance with the standard EBU congress formula.

It follows that category 'A' teams can only win ranking awards by coming in the top one-fifth of the overall field.

Category 'B' teams can win awards by coming either in the top one-fifth of the combined 'B' and 'C' category. If both these factors apply, then they receive the higher of the two awards.

Category 'C' teams can win awards by coming in the top one-fifth of the overall field or by coming in the top one-fifth of the combined 'B' and 'C' field or by coming in the top one-fifth of their own category only. If two or three of these factors apply then they receive the higher of the two or three awards.

10 Miscellaneous

- a) You are required to have a pair of identical completed system cards and you should exchange them with your opponents at the start of each round.

If you do not have two completed system cards, you will be provided with blank system cards to fill out before play may continue, receiving a score of average minus for any boards unplayed due to the time lost in doing this.

WBF system cards are **only** permitted in EBU Level 5 events. Since all competitions in this event are Level 4 you may not use WBF system cards.

- b) Ties will be split where necessary in accordance with standard EBU procedures in order to determine the winners of any particular tournament, and in order to determine the last qualifying place at any particular stage of a tournament.
- c) Pairs who require teammates for Monday should register their names on the appropriate notice-board by start of play on Sunday evening. Whilst every effort will be made to match pairs together, we regret that no guarantees can be given in this regard, although we do anticipate having a standby pair available for this purpose for this event. If, having registered yourselves as requiring teammates, you subsequently manage to make your own arrangements, it is essential that you delete your names from the notice-board.
- d) It is assumed that all pairs who fail to qualify for the next stage of the Championship Pairs will join the Swiss Pairs. If this is not the case, it is essential that any pair proposing to withdraw so notify a Tournament Director.

- e) Please switch off your mobile phone. If you must have it on for emergencies, switch it to silent and leave the playing area before answering it.
- f) The use of electronic cigarettes is prohibited in the playing areas.
- g) General EBU regulations apply in relation to any matter not detailed in these conditions (eg protest time). However, any conditions, whether they be general or specific to this competition as set out in this programme, may be varied upon the special instruction of the Tournament Director in charge, in order to accommodate any unforeseen circumstance and in order to facilitate the smooth running of this Congress.
- h) Please be nice to your partner, be pleasant to your opponents and polite to the Tournament Directors. Otherwise you may well be given a Disciplinary Penalty!

11 Appeals & protests

Paul Hackett is appointed as Appeals Chairman and will be available to act as appeals advisor should the need arise.

Any player who has received a Tournament Director's ruling, and who believes that a review of that ruling should be considered (i.e. is contemplating lodging an appeal), is encouraged to consult a neutral advisor on the subject before proceeding with the appeal. The Tournament Director will be happy to introduce you to a suitably qualified member should you decide that you wish to avail yourself of this service.

You are not obliged to take advantage of this service and nor are you required to take heed of any advice which you may have been given. An Appeals Committee will not enquire whether such advice has been sought, and - if so - what it was. It follows that advice to lodge an appeal is not an undertaking that your appeal will be successful.

Appeals Committees have been instructed to retain deposits and to require a score adjustment, should they determine that an appeal is without merit. Please note that the deposit for an appeal is £20 in the pairs events, and £30 in the Swiss teams.

12 Bridgemates

North (or South) is responsible for entering the contract & result into the Bridgemate, and East (or West) must be shown it to verify its accuracy by pressing the ACCEPT button. It is best to enter the contract, declarer and lead at the end of the auction – this saves time, reduces the risk of entering the wrong board number, and ensures the lead is fresh in your mind. Entering the lead accurately not only provides extra information of interest to players, but can also assist the scorer in resolving errors of data-entry.

It is an offence to attempt to access the TD screen or change a score in the Bridgemate without calling the TD.

Bridgemate UK is the EBU's "Official Wireless Scoring Provider".



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