



EBU Event Focus

Issue 24: November 2014



Welcome to the November issue of Event Focus. We hope you find it useful.

We would like to draw your attention to the survey on the location of the Summer Meeting. If you have already completed this, then thank you for doing so, however if you are yet to complete it then hopefully you would be willing to answer it - it should only take a couple of minutes. More details are below.

YEAR END CONGRESSES

27th - 30th December 2014, London
28th - 30th December 2014, nr Blackburn

What better way to spend the final days of the year than playing bridge. Shed that sluggish feeling brought on by one too many mince pies and too much television by joining us at one of our Year End Congresses.

Each congress has a Swiss Pairs, Swiss Teams, an Open Pairs and a Mixed Pairs competition. At the London event the Swiss competitions are stratified.

For the timetable for each congress please visit our website - [Year End Congress - London](#); [Northern Year End Congress](#).



Saturday
27th
December

At the Year End Congress in London we will also hold another Really Easy Afternoon for less experienced players. The same hands will be played at [Bradford Bridge Club](#), with hopefully more venues added soon. The competition will be scored across all venues.

The event at each venue is open to all - EBU members and non-members alike. Please pass this information on to any friends or family who may be interested.

Year End Congress - London

The event is held at the Royal National Hotel near Russell Square in the heart of London.

Accommodation packages are available at its sister hotel, The Imperial.

The packages include room, meals and parking. Bookings should be made via the hotel's Central Reservation Office:

Tel: 020 7278 7871

Fax: 020 7837 4653

Email: info@imperialhotels.co.uk

Northern Year End Congress

New venue for 2014 -
[The Dunkenhalgh Hotel](#)

This 4-star hotel, only a few miles from both Burnley and Blackburn, offers a wide range of facilities including a gym, swimming pool and golf course (for those who enjoy a wintery round).

Favourable accommodation rates are available through the [EBU Accommodation Booking Service](#).



SUMMER MEETING SURVEY

Despite recent changes which have been well received, the attendance at the EBU Summer Meeting in Brighton each August is approaching a point where the event may no longer be economical to run in its present form. For these reasons we are considering our options with a view to making changes that would come into effect in 2016 or after.

We are therefore asking all our tournament players to answer a few questions regarding the current location of the Summer Meeting, and what changes (if any) to the location would meet with your approval.

[Please take the survey here](#)

While we are always willing to listen to suggestions for improvements to the format, please note that this questionnaire is simply about where the Summer Meeting should be located.

ONLINE KNOCKOUT

Entries are now open for the 2015 EBU Online Knockout Teams competition.

Matches will be played exclusively online and are for teams of four. Green Points will be awarded for each match won.

Entries close on 23rd December, with the first round of matches to be completed by the end of January.

To enter please use the members area of the website or contact the Competitions Department
comps@ebu.co.uk or 01296 317203.

[Competition webpage](#)

THE NATIONAL TEAMS CONGRESS

17th - 18th January 2015, near Birmingham

A pair of events running in parallel: Point-a-Board or Swiss Teams You decide which one to enter

The parallel competitions were introduced for 2014 and proved popular. Both events run concurrently and you choose at the start which you wish to enter.

There will be a qualifying multiple-teams on Saturday in the Point-a-Board prior to Sunday's main final, which features longer head-to-head matches. Those failing to qualify for the Point-a-Board final may join the Swiss Teams on Sunday with a carry forward score, or can continue playing Point-a-Board in a secondary final. Alternatively you can play in the Swiss teams throughout the weekend.

The Point-a-Board competition carries enhanced Green Points in both the qualifying rounds and final. The Point-a-Board is also part of the **Championship Series** in which points can be won for the **Player of the Year Championship**.

Green Points are awarded in the Swiss Teams at the standard rate.

Those unfamiliar with Point-a-Board matches may wish to read [this short guide](#), David Gold's guide to the tactics of PAB in the [June 2013 issue of English Bridge](#), or read Brian Senior's [discussion of the different tactics](#) for Point-a-Board, IMPs and Match Points.

For more information on the congress please [visit the event webpage](#).

The venue is the Holiday Inn close to Birmingham airport, so there are great transport links to the rest of the country. The hotel also runs a complimentary shuttle service to Birmingham International railway station.

Trains to central Birmingham take 12 minutes, run approximately every ten minutes, and cost as little as £3 return.

Parking is available free at the hotel for residents, and for non-residents at a public carpark 200m away for £2.50 (when displaying a sign obtained from the hotel reception).

THE HARROGATE SPRING CONGRESS

20th - 22nd February 2015, Cairn Hotel, Harrogate

Be sure to book early for this popular congress

Join us for a weekend of bridge in the lovely spa town of Harrogate. Play on Friday and Saturday starts at 2pm to allow you a chance to enjoy the town.

The congress begins on Friday afternoon with mixed and open pairs events, with the Swiss Pairs starting in the evening. This continues throughout Saturday with nine 8-board matches played across the weekend.

Sunday has a seven round Swiss Teams event.

Both Swiss events are fully Green Pointed. The Mixed/Open Pairs are Blue Pointed on the national congress scale.

The closing date for entries is 6th February 2015 but **early entry is advised** as the congress may be full before that date.

The venue is the [Cairn Hotel](#).

Hotel rates of £59.95 DBB per person sharing, and £77.95 for single occupancy, are available.

Please book through Bridge Overseas on 0800 0346 246.

INTERNATIONAL TRIALS

Trials for the Lady Milne Trophy 23rd - 25th January 2015 Richmond Bridge Club, London

The Lady Milne Trophy is the competition for the Women's Teams of the Home Nations. As host nation in 2015 we will enter two teams; England and EBU.

The winners of the trial will be invited to join the England team with two exempted pairs - Jane Moore & Gillian Fawcett and Sarah Teshome & Catherine Jagger. The next three placed pairs will form the EBU team.

To enter please email [Dawn Mertens](#). The closing date for entries is 5th January.

The Lady Milne Trophy takes place in Birmingham, 17th - 19th April 2015.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR CHAMPIONSHIP

The first events in the Player of the Year Championship have taken place with the top performers in the Two Star Pairs at the Autumn Congress, and in the Premier League, awarded points.

By virtue of their victory in the Premier League the members of the Allfrey team have taken an early joint lead in the quest of the £1000 prize.



There are many more events, however, and still plenty of time to claim some points - even if just to claim bragging rights amongst your friends.

For more details on the future events visit [the competition webpage](#).

THE NATIONAL PAIRS

If you wish to enter the National Pairs your club can host a heat. Heats can be hosted by any EBU affiliated club, and the heats can be part of an ordinary club night as not every pair need make themselves eligible - any game with at least three tables can generate qualifiers.

Heats must be completed by mid-February. If you are interested then ask your club secretary or chairman to look on [our website](#) or to contact [Peter Jordan](#) (01296 317203).



How to enter

More information on any events mentioned can be found on our website. It's easy to enter any of the events by visiting www.ebu.co.uk/members and booking online through your personal members' area.

You can also contact [Peter Jordan](#) or [Dawn Mertens](#) during office hours on 01296 317203/219 or by emailing comps@ebu.co.uk.

Please don't forget to look at the [diary changes webpage](#) for any changes to the details of future events since the diary went to print.

Thanks for reading.

We hope to see you at one of our events in the not too distant future.



Dates for your diary

Sims events at your clubs:

5th - 8th January; 3rd - 4th February;
9th - 12th March;
and more throughout the year

5th - 11th February:
[Bridge Overseas Congress](#), Lanzarote

28th February - 1st March:
[Ranked Masters Pairs](#)
Holiday Inn, Birmingham Airport

1st March
[Master Pairs](#)
Various venues



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