



EBU Event Focus

Issue 27: February 2015

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

The weather may be wintery at the moment, but we're looking ahead to our spring calendar of events with congresses, 'multi-venue' events and international matches in the coming months.

Those of you who monitor your Master Point progress may be interested in the 2014 points lists. Links to the data are below.

THE HARROGATE SPRING CONGRESS

20th - 22nd February, Cairn Hotel, Harrogate

**The congress is likely to be fully booked before the event.
Please enter in advance as entries on the day may not be taken.**

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.

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

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.

2014 MASTER POINT LIST

Congratulations to John Holland who has won the Sunday Telegraph Salver for the most Master Points accumulated in the calendar year for the fourth time.

John gained a total of 28,824 points in 2014. Ed Scerri, was second with 24,510 points. Derek Oram was third with 23,665 (just 62 points ahead of Celia Oram).

In the Gold Point ranking list David Gold (perhaps suitably) reclaimed top spot with 102.48 points. John Holland is second, with 100.60, and both are well clear of the rest of the list. Andrew Robson, Tony Forrester and Alexander Allfrey complete the top five.

The winners of the Club Champions prize draw have also been selected. The winner was Chris Chowney of Ross-on-Wye Bridge Club.

The full Master Point lists for 2014, including a breakdown by county, can be accessed below.

[Master Point lists 2014](#) - including breakdown by county
[2014 leading points scorers](#)
[All-time leading points scorers](#)
[Gold point ranking list](#)
[Club champions list](#)
[Sunday Telegraph Salver winners](#)

RANKED MASTERS PAIRS
28th February - 1st March, nr Birmingham
MASTERS PAIRS
1st March, various venues

The Ranked Masters Pairs and Masters Pairs are pairs championships for which an appropriate EBU Master Point Rank is needed to enter. You will therefore be playing against those of a similar ranking. Green Points are awarded in all competitions.

The **Ranked Masters Pairs** comprises six competitions for specific ranking categories:

- (A) Premier Grand Masters Pairs
- (B) Grand Masters Pairs
- (C) Premier Life Masters Pairs
- (D) Life Masters Pairs
- (E) National Masters Pairs
- (F) Regional Masters Pairs

New for 2015 - a player will be allowed to "play up" to join a partner of a higher rank providing their NGS grade meets certain criteria on 1st January, or they achieve that grade at some point during the January before the event. For example, you would be able to partner a Grand Master in the Grand Masters Pairs if you have not reached that ranking but you are an 'Ace' on the NGS.

This method of qualification is in addition to the existing criteria based on Master Point ranking. Please see [the event webpage](#) for more details on the qualification criteria.

The **Masters Pairs** is open to players below the rank of Regional Master: Local Masters, Club Masters, Area Masters, District Masters, County Masters, Masters, Advanced Masters, Star Masters, Tournament Masters or Premier Masters. **Members who have attained a [landmark promotion](#) to the rank of Master are entitled to free entry.**

Please see [the event webpage](#) for more details on the competition.

Ranked Masters Pairs

The venue is the Holiday Inn close to Birmingham airport.

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 hotel also runs a complimentary shuttle service to Birmingham International railway station.

Masters Pairs

The event takes place at six locations simultaneously, and is scored across all the venues:

BradfordBridge Club, [BD8 7HB](#) Exeter
Bridge Club, [EX4 8NT](#) Richmond
Bridge Club, [TW1 2PG](#) Tunbridge
Wells Bridge Club, [TN1 1DL](#)
Welwyn Garden City Bridge Club, [AL8 6XE](#)
West Midlands Bridge Club, Solihull, [B91 3EP](#)

[Overview map of locations](#)

2015 LADY MILNE TROPHY
Birmingham, 17th - 19th April

England will be hosting the Lady Milne Trophy in April. It will take place at the Holiday Inn near Birmingham Airport.

There will be two English teams, and you are invited to come and watch and support the teams. There will be a free vugraph theatre, with expert commentary, so you can follow the action as it unfolds.

The schedule, teams and more information will be available [on our website](#) when they have been confirmed.

BLUE POINT HOLIDAY
Dunkenhalgh Hotel and Spa,
nr Blackburn

18th - 22nd May

Join us for a week of bridge in the Lancashire countryside. Enjoy social, yet competitive bridge, and the chance to enjoy the local sights or leisure facilities on offer at the hotel.

As the holidays are aimed at social players we suggest they would suit players ranked below Regional Master and below Jack on the NGS scale.

As the name suggests, Blue Points are awarded for each game.

For more information please see the Blue Point Holiday brochure.

Bookings should be made via Bridge Overseas on 0800 0346 246

PORTLAND PAIRS

22nd March, various venues

A two-session mixed pairs event held at venues around the country.

This mixed pairs event is played in sixteen venues in England and Wales, and match-pointed across the whole field.

This is an ideal opportunity to play in a nationwide, Green Pointed competition with only a small amount of travel.

The venues are:

Billericay (6)	First Class Bridge Academy, CM11 2UD
Bournemouth (4)	Christchurch Bridge Club, BH7 6JD
Bristol (3)	Bristol Bridge Club, BS8 4QQ
Bury St. Edmunds (1)	Abbeygate Bridge Club, IP29 5LU
Darlington (10)	St. George's Bridge Centre, DL3 0RW
Exeter (7)	ISCA Centre, EX4 8NT
Lancashire (2)	Brierfield Bridge Club, BB9 5PT
Lincolnshire (11)	Stamford Bridge Club, PE9 2RN
London (16)	Young Chelsea Bridge Club, - location TBC (see website for details)
Oxfordshire (12)	Steventon Village Hall, OX13 6RR
Richmond (8)	Richmond Bridge Club, TW1 2PG
Sheffield (9)	Sheffield Bridge Club, S7 1NA
Solihull (15)	West Midlands Bridge Club, B91 3EP
Tunbridge Wells (13)	Tunbridge Wells Bridge Club, TN1 1DL
Welwyn Garden City (14)	Welwyn Garden City Bridge Club, AL8 6XE
Colwyn Bay (5)	Colwyn Bay Cricket Club LL28 4LR

The number in the table equates to the number on the map



SIM PAIRS EVENTS

The Club Stratified Sim Pairs will take place 9th to 12th March.

The event runs like any other EBU sim pairs events, however the final results are stratified into four categories based on Master Point rankings.

Blue points are awarded to both the top 1/3 of the field, but also the top 1/3 of each stratification who are outside the main awards.

It is therefore a great chance for players of all abilities to compare scores with those of a similar ranking, and earn blue points by competing within their stratification.

The entry fee is also cheaper than the other EBU Sim Pairs, so if your club doesn't usually take part in the events this is a great one to try.

There are many reasons to take part in our [Sim Pairs events](#):

Win £1000: every heat winner is entered into a draw with a top prize of £1000. [There are 17 other prizes](#), and the same prizes for host clubs too.

Win hundreds of Master Points: the top pairs will win hundreds of Master Points, including Blue Points, just for playing at their 'regular club night'.

Hand commentaries by experts

In addition there are other Sim Pairs events throughout the year.

Support the EBED charity: the proceeds from the EBED Spring and Autumn Sim Pairs go towards EBED's work in developing new players of all ages - fundamental to the future of bridge.

Support the EBU: the proceeds of the other Sim Pairs help **your** EBU.

Please take part and encourage your club to host a heat.

EASTER FESTIVALS

3rd - 6th April 2015, London

3rd - 5th April 2015, Ilkley

Drag yourself away from your chocolate eggs and join us at one of the Easter Festivals.

The London event includes a three session Championship Pairs, a flighted Swiss Pairs and a Stratified Swiss Teams. The Northern Easter Festival, run by the Yorkshire CBA on the EBU's behalf, starts with an Open Pairs and a Mixed Pairs competition, continues with a three session Swiss Pairs, and ends with a Swiss Teams. They will also host an improver pairs.

The Under 19 Championship Pairs takes place at the Easter Festival in London. Entry is free, and participants can also gain free entry into the Swiss Teams, and half price entry to the Swiss Pairs.

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



**Friday 3rd
April**

At the Easter Festival in London we will also hold another Really Easy Afternoon for less experienced players. The same hands will be played at other venues (locations TBC), and 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.

Easter Festival - 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 Easter Festival

The event is held at the grand, Victorian, Craiglands Hotel.

Set in 6 acres of beautiful, landscaped grounds and woodland, Craiglands is just a short walk to the historic spa town of Ilkley and the famous Ilkley Moor.

It is 10 minutes walk from the station. A shuttle service between the station and the hotel will be provided for those travelling by train. The hotel has its own free car park for 200+ cars.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR CHAMPIONSHIP

There is a new leader in the Player of the Year Championship after David Gold's victory in the Point-a-Board event at the National Teams congress.



There are a number of upcoming events in which points will be scored in the quest for the the **£1000 first prize** - the National Pairs, The Guardian trophy at the Easter Festival (see left), the Schapiro Spring Fours -

Details of the points available, and the current standings, can be seen on [the competition webpage](#).

PACHABO SCORING CHANGES

The Pachabo Cup has for many years, uniquely in this country, been scored by a combination of Point a Board and „Aggregate Quotient“. The hybrid scoring principle remains for 2015, but has been adapted so that it is more 'transparent', allowing for a better consideration of the tactics needed, and making it easier for those who wish to calculate their own score.

The new scoring format is explained in [this document](#).

If you have any questions about the new scoring method please contact Gordon Rainsford – 01296 317223 gordon@ebu.co.uk.



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.



EBU Competitions Department

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Dates for your diary

20th – 22nd February:
Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer
Porthcawl, Wales

[Sims events at your clubs](#):
9th - 12th March; 7th - 9th & 13th April
and more throughout the year

6th - 8th March:
Camrose Trophy, second weekend
Northern Ireland

15th March:
[National Pairs](#), Regional Finals
Various venues

24th April - 3rd May: [Lambourne Jersey Festival of Bridge](#)
Westhill
Country Hotel, Jersey

1st - 5th May: [Schapiro Spring Foursomes](#)
Holiday Inn,
Stratford-upon-Avon