



EBU Event Focus

Issue 30: April 2015

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

There are a number of upcoming entry deadlines - notably for the Hubert Phillips Bowl and the Schapiro Spring Foursomes. Please ensure that if you intend playing in these that you enter in time.

Also, we'd like to remind all players that having two identically completed system cards is not just polite, it is a requirement. It is open to the director to either fine pairs who ignore this requirement or require them to fill them out at the table, scoring Ave- for any boards they may miss while they do it. But we hope that won't be necessary and you will all have helpfully filled out system cards every time you play. And of course, completing one with your partner helps flag up those areas on which your agreements may need to be discussed, so it can be aid to better results too. Please note that the WBF card may only be used in Level 5 events, such as the Spring Foursomes. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

LAMBOURNE JERSEY FESTIVAL

24th April - 3rd May, Westhill Country Hotel near St Helier

A wonderful and very popular congress held annually on the delightful island of Jersey.

A ten day congress with competitions each evening and all weekend, allowing enough time to enjoy the sights of the island. For those wanting more bridge, and less sightseeing, there is a midweek afternoon Seniors Congress (for those over, or turning, 60 in 2015).

The first weekend is a Swiss Pairs competition, the second weekend is a Swiss Teams. The midweek competitions offer a range of pairs and teams events.

The weekend and Seniors competitions are fully Green Pointed. Other competitions are Blue Pointed on the Regional congress scale.

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

Entries should be made to John Honey - Tel: 01534 874702, Email: jsybridgecongress@yahoo.co.uk

The venue is the [Westhill Country Hotel](#).

It is set in beautifully landscaped gardens on the edge of St Helier with a complimentary bus to the capital several times a day.

Please see their website for more details.

HUBERT PHILLIPS BOWL

Last call for entries

The deadline for entering the Hubert Phillips Bowl has passed, but we will accept late entries until **Monday 20th April**.

This is the mixed teams-of-four championships, played on the full pivot principle - you play one-third of the match with each of your teammates as a partner. Teams may contain 4, 5 or 6 players, but only 4 players may play in any match prior to the semi-finals.

Seeding ensures every team plays at least one match before meeting a seed. There is a Plate competition (at no extra charge) so all non-seeded teams play at least two matches.

The early rounds are 'regionalised' to try to keep travelling distances small.

For more information please visit [the competition webpage](#)

Please enter on 01296 317203/219 or by email to comps@ebu.co.uk

SCHAPIRO SPRING FOURSOMES

1st - 5th May, Stratford-upon-Avon

Join us for the one of the great events of the English bridge calendar

Considered to be one of the toughest, but for many the most enjoyable, competitions in domestic bridge, the Schapiro Spring Foursome attracts some of the leading players from the UK and beyond. Whatever your standard, it's a chance to test yourself against the best.

The 'double-elimination' format gives everyone a 'second bite of the cherry', and the consolation Punchbowl, and one-day Hamilton Cup Swiss Teams, give third and fourth bites for those who need them.

Due to the generous sponsorship arrangement in place for this event, prizes are approximately twice the normal EBU value. We wish to express our gratitude to Mrs Helen Schapiro in supporting this most prestigious event in this way, and in donating a trophy in the name of her husband, the late, and truly great, [Boris Schapiro](#).

For more information, and to see the current and previous entrants, please [visit the event webpage](#).

The venue is the [Holiday Inn in Stratford upon Avon](#).

The hotel is located near the town centre and is in a very picturesque riverside setting which adds to the enjoyment of this excellent tournament by providing a lovely area to relax in between sessions.

SPRING BANK HOLIDAY CONGRESS

23rd - 25th May, Stratford-upon-Avon

Join us for a weekend of bridge in Shakespeare's home town

A relaxed congress now to be held in Stratford-upon-Avon (previously in Bournemouth). Stratford provides plenty of entertainment for the free mornings, or players may wish to spend an extra night there in order to go to the theatre.

Saturday sees the start of the Championship Pairs, with the top forty pairs playing in all-play-all finals on Sunday. The non-qualifiers play in a Swiss Pairs on Sunday, an event which is also open to those playing on Sunday only. Monday is a stratified Swiss Teams event.

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



**Saturday
23rd May**

At the Spring Bank Holiday Congress we will also hold another Really Easy Afternoon for less experienced players. The same hands will be played at other sites (including Christchurch Bridge Club in Bournemouth), 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.

GERARD FAULKNER SALVER

Senior Knockout Teams

Entries are now open for the Gerard Faulkner Salver. This is a knockout teams event for those born in 1955 or earlier. Please enter by 4th June 2015.

A 'repechage system' is used, so all first round losers play a second match to try to earn a place in the second round proper. Every non-seeded team is therefore guaranteed two matches.

Matches are played privately, and can be played online with the agreement of both teams, hopefully enabling those who are less mobile to take part.

The early rounds are 'regionalised' to try to keep travelling distances small.

For more information please visit [the competition webpage](#)

Please enter on 01296 317203/219 or by email to comps@ebu.co.uk

REALLY EASY WEEKEND

Marsham Court Hotel,
Bournemouth

26th - 28th June

Join us for a fun weekend of bridge in lovely Bournemouth.

The event is aimed at 'experienced novice players' so we hope everyone can enjoy both the 'competitive' bridge, and also the social aspect of the weekend. We expect players be ranked below Regional Master, with an NGS grading no higher than a Jack.

There are four 'play' sessions of bridge across the weekend, and also a lesson on Saturday morning. A bespoke package has been arranged at the [Marsham Court Hotel](#), including two nights dinner, bed and breakfast, with sandwich lunch on Sunday, for £163 PP single, £133 PP sharing.

To take advantage of this package please book directly with the Marsham Court Hotel on 01202 552111 quoting 'EBU Really Easy Bridge Weekend'.

Bridge fees are £50, payable to the EBU. Please ensure you have booked your accommodation before paying for the bridge. To pay your bridge fees please contact 01296 317203/219

The venue is the [Holiday Inn in Stratford upon Avon](#).

Rooms being reserved by the hotel for booking by EBU members have now been released for general bookings. There are still rooms available, but only at the best available rates at the time of booking. Please note that accommodation at the venue is limited, especially on the first night, so players are advised to book early.

OXFORD MIDWEEK CONGRESS

26th - 28th May, Milton Common, Oxfordshire

A midweek congress with reduced entry fees, and time to enjoy Oxford

This is a fully Green Pointed congress featuring a 3 session 'all play through' Championship Pairs event and a one day Swiss Teams event.

Entry fees and prizes have traditionally been specially reduced for this particular congress, and starting in 2015 this will be extended so that there is no prize money but entry fees are reduced correspondingly. It is therefore a great value event.

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

The venue is the [Oxford Belfry Hotel](#), just fifteen minutes drive from Oxford.

Discounted rates are available at the hotel via the [EBU Accommodation Booking Service](#) or by calling Bridge Overseas Freephone on: 0800 0346 246

There will be a courtesy bus taking players to Oxford on the Wednesday morning to allow you to enjoy the City of Dreaming Spires.



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.

SIM PAIRS EVENTS

The next event is the **EBED Spring Sim Pairs, 5th - 7th May**.

Proceeds go to the charity English Bridge Education and Development to help its work in developing new players of all ages - fundamental to the future of bridge.

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

There are many other 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.

Enhanced Master Points: the leading pairs will win enhanced Master Points, including Blue Points, whilst playing at their 'regular club night'.

Hand commentaries by experts with a new comments feature on the website, allowing for discussion of the hands after the event.

There are other events throughout the year which support the EBU: the proceeds of the other Sim Pairs help your EBU - please support them.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR CHAMPIONSHIP

The most recent scoring event was the Championship Pairs at the Easter Festival in London. It was won by Janet de Botton & Artur Malinowski, and both moved in to the top 20. The competition is still led by David Gold.

The next scoring events towards the **£1000 first prize** are the National Pairs, and the Schapiro Spring Fours.

More details can be seen on [the competition webpage](#).



Dates for your diary

[Sims events at your clubs:](#)
5th - 7th May, 27th - 30th July
and more throughout the year

9th May:

[Garden Cities Trophy](#), Regional Finals
Various venues

30th - 31st May: [Corwen Trophy](#), Birmingham