



EBU Event Focus Issue 31: May 2015

As you may know, the EBU Board has made the decision that the Summer Meeting in 2016 and beyond will be moving from Brighton to Eastbourne.

This decision is based on a number of factors, and takes in to account the feedback received from members in the survey which was undertaken late last year. The move to Eastbourne addresses a number of concerns expressed during the survey – in particular the cost and availability of accommodation and parking in Brighton – whilst maintaining the ‘holiday resort’ location which was appealing to the majority of the respondents. The new venue will also lead to a reduction in the cost of holding the event, and this will be passed on through a reduction in the entry fees. More details on these prices will be available in 2016.

We hope that the move to Eastbourne will be a great success, and the event will be well supported, but that does not mean we aren't determined to make the 2015 Summer Meeting the best it can be. We will continue to provide the high quality competitions, lectures, and training courses which you have come to expect at the Summer Meeting, and hope that you will join us to say a fond farewell to Brighton. As an incentive we have a special offer – please see below for details.

Of course there are many other events between now and then, so please read on for details of congresses before the summer holidays arrive.

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, [Mid Essex Bridge Club](#) at Barleylands near Billericay, [Richmond Bridge Club](#), and [Bradford Bridge Club](#)), 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.

PREMIER LEAGUE 2015 **Entry deadline approaching**

Teams wishing to enter the 2015 Premier League should ensure that they have submitted their application by **31st May**. Entries should be sent to dawn@ebu.co.uk.

The Premier League is a high level teams competition in its own right, but also acts as trials for the England team for the Camrose Trophy. There are two divisions and is played over three weekends in the autumn.

For more details please see the [competition webpage](#).

BRIDGE GREAT BRITAIN GOLD CUP **Change of schedule**

Please remember that the Gold Cup, organised by Bridge Great Britain, has changed its schedule. The first round of the 2015/16 competition will take place in the summer of 2015, with the final moving to August 2016.

Entries should be made by 1st June 2015 using [this entry form](#).

The venue is the [Holiday Inn](#) in the centre of Stratford upon Avon. It is in a very picturesque riverside setting, providing a lovely area to relax between sessions.

Rooms 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 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.

RIVIERA CONGRESS

3rd - 5th July, Riviera Centre, Torquay

A summer congress at the fabulous Riviera Centre overlooking Torquay Harbour

The congress features a one-day Swiss Teams event on the Friday, followed by a two-day Swiss Pairs event on the Saturday and Sunday. Both are fully Green Pointed.

Away from the table there is time in the schedule to enjoy the beaches and harbours of the English Riviera, venture into Dartmoor, or visit some of the area's tourist attractions.

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

The venue is the [Riviera Centre](#) in Torquay.

There are numerous accommodation options in the area. Some are available via the [English Riviera website](#).

GERARD FAULKNER SALVER Senior Knockout Teams

Entries are open for the Gerard Faulkner Salver - the knockout teams 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 reduce travelling distances.

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

Now open to 'day guests'

Whilst Really Easy Weekends are primarily residential events, at this venue you may attend as a 'day guest' and participate in the bridge only, or play in the bridge and join us at meal times. You can enter as many sessions as you wish.

The bridge sessions are £10 each, per person, and the timetable is:

Fri 7:45 - 10:45pm - duplicate pairs
Sat 10:00am - 12:00pm - a 'workshop' on 'hand evaluation'
Sat 3:30 - 5:45pm - duplicate pairs
Sat 7:45 - 10:45pm - duplicate pairs
Sun 10:00am - 2:00pm - Swiss teams

At present the attendance is lower than we require for the event to go ahead, however we need only a few bookings before it would be confirmed, and a decision will be made by 22nd May. So, if you are interested then please make a commitment now, and help ensure the event goes ahead.

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.

THE SUMMER MEETING

14th - 23rd August 2015, Hilton Metropole, Brighton
19th - 28th August 2016, Winter Gardens, Eastbourne

Join us for the EBU's flagship congress

2015 will be the final time the Summer Congress will be in Brighton. We hope you will join us to make it a grand farewell, whether it is for one of the [Weekend Challenge Events](#), [a One Day Event](#), the [Really Easy Congress](#), or [the whole meeting](#).

For full details on the competitions at the congress please follow the respective links.

Those booking the Full Congress in 2015 will receive a £50 discount off the cost of the Full Congress in Eastbourne in 2016. Juniors entering at half price will receive a £25 reduction. We hope this is further incentive to play in both 2015 and 2016, and make them great events to end one era, and start the next.

Accommodation for 2015 at the Hilton Metropole is available at a preferential rate by booking directly with the hotel.

Call 01273 775432 (option 1) and quote the reference AEBU.

Information on travel, parking etc, is available [here](#).



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.



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PLAYER OF THE YEAR CHAMPIONSHIP

Since the last Event Focus the Schapiro Spring Foursomes was won by Frances Hinden, Jeffrey Allerton, Graham Osborne and Jon Cooke (pictured with Helen Schapiro). They have moved into, and just outside, the top 10. Phil Godfrey & James Thrower won the National Pairs, taking them in to the top 20.



David Gold played in a Spring Foursomes team with his nearest rivals, so maintained his six point lead in the competition.

The next scoring events towards the **£1000 first prize** are Swiss Pairs and Swiss Teams at the Summer Meeting.

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



Dates for your diary

[Sims events at your clubs:](#)

27th - 30th July, 7th - 11th September
and more throughout the year

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

6th - 7th June: [Pachabo Cup](#),
West Bromwich

13th June:
[Garden Cities Trophy](#) Final, Solihull