



# EBU Event Focus

## Issue 36: October 2015

The first big event of the new bridge season, the Autumn Congress, is just ten days away, and we hope you will be joining us for that, and many more in the twelve months ahead.

Looking ahead to the summer, we have some details which will help you plan for the Summer Meeting in Eastbourne - please see the information in the right-hand column.

If you haven't already seen the promotional video for the Summer Meeting in Eastbourne, you may wish to watch it [here](#).



As always, if you have any questions on our events please contact the Competitions Department on 01296 317203/219.

### AUTUMN CONGRESS

16th - 18th October, Holiday Inn,  
Peterborough

#### A three day congress, with events for all levels of experience

The congress includes the prestigious Two Star Pairs. The qualifier for this will take place on Friday using a Swiss Pairs format, but with short matches and matchpoint scoring. The top twenty pairs will qualify for the Two Stars Pairs, the next twenty for the Satellite pairs, with these finals taking place on Saturday. Anyone wishing to play only on the Friday may do so.

Those who don't qualify for the main finals will play in a more traditional style of Swiss Pairs on the Saturday, with 9 x 6 board matches scored by VPs. This Swiss Pairs is also open to those playing only on the Saturday.

Green Points are awarded for matches won at all stages of the Pairs events.

The Two Star Pairs is part of **the Championship Series**, in which points can be earned towards the [Player of the Year Championship](#).

We also have our 2-session multiple teams event on the Sunday for the Eastbourne Bowl (Premier) and the Burlington Cup (Secondary). All non-qualifiers play in the Sussex Cup.

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

### ONLINE KNOCKOUT COMPETITION

Entries are now open for the 2016 Online Knockout Teams competition.

As the name suggests matches are played exclusively online. It is for teams of four (from a squad of up to six), all of whom must be members of the 'home union' federations - so tell your friends in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland.

There is a plate competition, at no extra charge, for those losing their first match. Half-price entry is available to players under 25

Green Points are awarded for each match in the main competition; Blue Points in the plate competition.

The first round will be played in January 2016.

**Entries close on Wednesday 23rd December.** Enter by calling 01296 317203, emailing [comps@ebu.co.uk](mailto:comps@ebu.co.uk), or through the member's area of the website.



## Really Easy Afternoon

16th October, multiple venues

An event aimed at less experienced players (ranked lower than a Master and below a Jack on NGS), intended as an introduction to 'congress bridge'. The event takes place at the main congress in Peterborough, and the same hands will also be played at:

- ✓ [Brierfield Bridge Club](#) - 1:30pm start
- ✓ [Bradford Bridge Club](#) - 2pm start
- ✓ [Caterham Bridge Club](#) - start time TBC
- ✓ [Christchurch Bridge Club, Bournemouth](#), - 2pm start
- ✓ [First Class Bridge Academy, Billericay](#), - 2pm start
- ✓ [Richmond Bridge Club](#) - 2pm start
- ✓ [Wimbledon Bridge Club](#) - 2pm start
- ✓ [West Midlands Bridge Club](#) - 3pm start
- ✓ Autumn Congress, Peterborough - 2pm start

with the competition 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.

The venue for the main congress is the [Holiday Inn Peterborough - West](#).

Peterborough can be easily reached from much of England via the A1 or A14.

## BRIDGE HOLIDAYS FOR LESS EXPERIENCED PLAYERS

### Blue Point Holiday

16th - 20th October,  
Chilworth Manor, near  
Southampton

£299 PP dinner, bed & breakfast  
(£9.99 single supplement)

### Really Easy Weekend

30th October - 1st November -  
Horwood House near Milton  
Keynes

£166 PP single, £130 PP sharing. Two  
nights DB&B with sandwich lunch on  
Sunday.

These holidays are aimed at social players looking to combine a holiday with some 'gently competitive' bridge.

As these holidays are aimed at social players we suggest that they are most

## SUMMER MEETING 2016

### Event schedule and times

The main schedule in 2016 will be mostly the same as in recent years - see below for changes. It will start on **Friday 19th August** with the Swiss Pairs, and finish on **Sunday 28th August** with the 4 Star and Swiss Teams, and one-day Swiss Pairs events.

All session times will be the same - the midweek sessions will have a 'regular' start at 7:45, and most will have an 'early start' at 7:00. We believe that the train schedule will allow those who start at 7pm an opportunity to easily travel back to London after playing.

The changes to the events are:

There will be a one-day Swiss Pairs on the first Sunday. There will be no one-day event on the first Saturday.

There may be a change to the format of the Really Easy Congress. These changes are yet to be confirmed, and will be announced as soon as possible.

### Prices

We are pleased to say that due to the change of venue all entry fees are reduced by around 10% for 2016.

### The venue, parking & hotels

The venue is the [Winter Garden in Eastbourne](#).

There is no accommodation at the venue, and due to the abundance of hotels within easy walking distance of the venue there is not a 'host' hotel. You are free to make your own accommodation arrangements depending on your personal budget and circumstances. Our research suggests prices are cheaper than in Brighton - in some instances 30-50% cheaper for like-for-like options.

Links to hotel listings are [available here](#).

Discounted parking is available nearby for just £2 per 24 hour period (the carpark is locked in the evening so would need to move your car on to the street - where

suiting to players who are ranked below Master, and whose NGS grading is lower than a Jack. Whilst there is no lower limit on a player's ability, they should be comfortable playing in a 'club setting'.

Accommodation for each event should be booked through the [Accommodation Booking Service](#) with Bridge Overseas on 0800 0346 246. Bridge fees should be paid directly to the EBU on 01296 317203/219.

**Please note:** Availability for the Really Easy Weekend is extremely limited. Please book your accommodation with Bridge Overseas promptly to avoid disappointment.

## SENIORS CONGRESS

6th - 8th November, Holiday Inn,  
Birmingham Airport

### A three day congress for those born in 1955 or earlier

The weekend starts with a two-day Championship Pairs – two qualifying rounds on Friday, and two finals on Saturday, with both a Championship Pairs final and a Satellite Pairs final, each comprising three mini-sessions.

On Saturday there is a Swiss Pairs Championship, open to pairs eliminated from the Championship Pairs at the end of Friday evening, and to players joining the congress on Saturday. It is a two session event, with seven 8-board matches.

There is a Swiss Teams Championship on Sunday. It is a two-session event, with a total of seven 7-board matches.

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

The venue is the [Holiday Inn](#) close to Birmingham airport, with great transport links to the rest of the country. The hotel runs a free 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.

Favourable rates on accommodation at the hotel are available via Bridge Overseas on: 0800 0346 246

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Thanks for reading.

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

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[www.ebu.co.uk/competitions](http://www.ebu.co.uk/competitions),  
[comps@ebu.co.uk](mailto:comps@ebu.co.uk)

Broadfields, Bicester Road, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP19 8AZ

parking is free after 6pm - if you intend leaving that evening). You may therefore wish to stay outside Eastbourne (or at home) and travel in each day.

## SIM PAIRS EVENTS

The Sim Pairs events organised by the EBU in 2015 conclude this week. We hope you have enjoyed them. We hope you will take part again next year.

If you didn't take part then perhaps you can encourage your club to participate next year. [This document](#) outlines some of the benefits of participation.

The draw for the prizes for the heat winners, and host clubs, both with top prizes of £1000, and [17 other prizes](#), will be made at the AGM on 25th November.



## Dates for your diary

31st October - 1st November:  
[Premier League](#), 2nd weekend, Coventry

6th - 8th November:  
[Premier League](#), 3rd weekend, London

4th November: Deadline for entries for [Tollemache Cup](#)

21st - 22nd November: [Tollemache Cup](#) qualifying round, Holiday Inn, Birmingham Airport

12th - 14th November:  
[European Champions' Cup](#), nr Milton Keynes

12th - 13th December:  
Gold Cup finals, West Midlands BC, Solihull

23rd December:  
Deadline for entering [Online KO Teams](#)

27th - 29th December: [Northern Year End Congress](#), Clayton-le-Moors

27th - 30th December: [Year End Congress](#), London