



EBU Event Focus Issue 29: Easter 2015

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

At the Easter Festival in London the Championship Pairs on the Friday will have two start time options to help those who wish to take part in religious or cultural events that day. We will assume that everyone will begin playing at the main start time of 4pm, unless you notify us differently. Please tell us when you enter, or if you have already entered and wish to start at 2pm on Friday please let us know as soon as possible.

Looking for a partner? At the Easter Festival we will start a new trial initiative to help members find partners for future events. We will have available at congresses the contact details of anyone who is looking for a partner for a future EBU event, so anyone who is also looking can check the list of available players. If you would like to have your details made available at a future EBU event please send to peter.stockdale@ebu.co.uk your name, email address, a short 'biography' and system preferences, and the events for which you need a partner.

EASTER FESTIVALS

3rd - 6th April, London

3rd - 5th April, 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 for the Guardian Trophy, a flighted Swiss Pairs and a Stratified Swiss Teams.

The Championship Pairs on Friday has two start options - 2pm and 4pm.

If you wish to take advantage of the early start option then **please let us know when entering (or as soon as possible if you have already entered)**. If you wish to start at the 'standard' time then there is no need to let us know, and similarly if you do not notify us of your intention to start early we will assume you are starting at 4.00pm. Please help us to make the necessary arrangements by notifying us of your intentions.

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.

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.

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 (including Ilkley and Billericay), 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.

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.

Play starts at 7pm on Friday, and ends around 11:30pm. On Saturday and Sunday play begins at 10am and ends around 8pm, with a break for lunch. The schedule and teams are available [on our website](#) and more information will be added when known.

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](#), which include golf and a spa.

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.

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.

The weekend costs just £259 per person, for four nights dinner, bed and breakfast, and seven sessions of bridge.

Bookings should be made via Bridge Overseas on 0800 0346 246

REALLY EASY WEEKEND

Days Hotel Marsham Court,

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 will be able to enjoy both the 'competitive' bridge, and also the social aspect of the weekend. We would expect players to be ranked below Regional Master, and have an NGS grading no higher than a Jack.

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

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 [Days 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 Days Hotel on 01202 446644 quoting 'EBU Really Easy Bridge Weekend'.

The 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 [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.

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.



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
Tel: 01296 317203/219 , www.ebu.co.uk/competitions,
comps@ebu.co.uk Broadfields, Bicester Road, Aylesbury,
Bucks, HP19 8AZ

SIM PAIRS EVENTS

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.

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

Support the EBED charity: 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.

The next event is the British Spring Sim Pairs, 7th - 9th & 13th April.

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

PLAYER OF THE YEAR CHAMPIONSHIP

There have been no scoring events since the last newsletter, so the competition is still led by David Gold.

The next scoring events are in the quest for the the **£1000 first prize** are The Guardian Trophy at the Easter Festival, 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:](#)

7th - 9th & 13th April, 5th - 7th May
and more throughout the year

17th - 19th April: Lady
Milne Trophy
Birmingham (see above)

18th - 19th April: [National Pairs](#), National Finals West
Bromwich

9th May:
[Garden Cities Trophy](#), Regional Finals
Various venues