



EBU Event Focus

Issue 41: March 2016



Spring has sprung, so we're in a busy period for bridge events. There are three events in the next three weeks which are open to everyone. The [National Pairs](#) isn't listed below, but we are still accepting entries for most venues - so if you would like to play then call us by Friday.

We also hope you are planning for events further on in the calendar. Places for the Spring Fours are filling up, as are hotels in Eastbourne for the Summer Meeting, so book soon. Prices in Eastbourne are, on the whole, much cheaper than in Brighton, and parking is just £2 per day - plus the congress entry fees have been reduced by 10% - so it promises to be a more affordable event. Don't delay - book today.

As always, if you have any questions please contact the Competitions Department on 01296 317203/219. Entries can be made by calling this number, or through the members area of the website - www.ebu.co.uk/members. Entries for the Northern Easter Festival should be made directly to the Yorkshire CBA - see below for more details.



PORTLAND PAIRS

20th March, Multiple regional venues
The national mixed pairs championships

The Portland Pairs - a two session, mixed pairs event - takes place across multiple venues on Sunday 20th March. The event is scored across all venues, with Green Points awarded.

Heats are taking place at the following venues:

Billericay - First Class Bridge Academy, CM11 2UD	Bournemouth - Christchurch BC, BH7 6JD
Brierfield BC - BB9 5PT	Bristol BC - BS8 4QQ
Bury St. Edmunds - Great Barton Village Hall, IP31 2NR	Darlington - St. George's Bridge Centre, DL3 0RW
Exeter - ISCA Centre, EX4 8NT	London - Young Chelsea BC, W12 8HA
Richmond BC - TW1 2PG	Sheffield BC - S7 1NA
Solihull - West Midlands BC, B91 3EP	Stamford BC - PE9 2RN
Tunbridge Wells BC - TN1 1DL	Welwyn Garden City BC - AL8 6XE

Wales - Colwyn Bay Cricket Club [LL28 4LR](#)

Wallingford BC - [OX10 6JJ](#) - **this heat is sold out**

For all English venues, entries should be made to the EBU. Please enter in advance.

If you wish to play at the Welsh venue please contact the heat organiser: Mrs Sheila Shea, 4 Norton Road, Rhos on Sea, Colwyn Bay, LL28 4TH Tel: 01492 540942 Email: sheila.shea@talktalk.net

SIM PAIRS EVENTS

The next sim pairs event is the Club Stratified Sim Pairs in mid-March.

The British Spring Simultaneous Pairs takes place 4th to 7th April.

EBED Sims for researching the cognitive benefits of bridge

The May and September EBED Sim Pairs events will be specifically raising funds for research in to the cognitive benefits of playing bridge. Please take part and encourage your club to hold a heat.

[This document](#) gives the dates and outlines some of the benefits of participation in Sim Pairs.

The EBED Sim Pairs in May takes place on 3rd, 4th, 5th and 9th May - the 'hanging' Monday will give a chance to take part to those clubs which are usually otherwise engaged on the first Monday of the month.



The Easter Festival

25th - 28th March, Royal National Hotel,
London

The Northern Easter Festival

25th - 27th March, Craiglands Hotel, 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. An early start is available on Friday for the Championships Pairs - if you wish to start at 2pm rather than the standard 4pm please let us know when entering.

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 which is part of the Really Easy Afternoon.

Under 21 Championship Pairs

This event is part of the Easter Festival in London and takes place on Saturday 26th March. Entry is free (please enter in advance), and players also gain free entry to the Swiss Teams on Sunday, and half price entry to the Swiss Pairs on Monday. Players should be born more recently than 26th March 1995. Play starts at noon, and should finish around 6:30pm.



2015 winners: Isaac Channon & Jasmine Bakhshi

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

Entries for the Northern Easter Festival should be made directly to YCBA. See the [event entry form](#) for more details.



Really Easy Afternoon

25th March, multiple venues

An event aimed at less experienced players (ranked below Master and below Jack on NGS), intended as an introduction to 'congress bridge'. The event takes place at multiple venues with the same hands played at each, and scored across all sites. Current venues are:

- [Northern Easter Festival](#) - 1:30pm start
- [Wimbledon Bridge Club](#) - 2:00pm start
- [Brierfield Bridge Club](#) - 2:00pm start
- [First Class Bridge Academy, Billericay](#), - 2:00pm start
- [Easter Festival, London](#) - 4:00pm start

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.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

World Mixed Teams

We are accepting applications from teams hoping to be the English representatives in the Mixed Teams event at the World Bridge Games. The EBU may subsidise the entry fee for the event, but otherwise the team would be self-funded.

Teams comprised of two or three mixed pairs should submit their application to dawn@ebu.co.uk before 13th March. The selection committee reserves the right to hold a trial, or to select the team, according to the entries received. Should a trial be held, it will take place on 14th & 15th May (an entry fee would be charged).

The World Bridge Games takes place in Wroclaw, Poland, from 3rd - 17th September 2016.

European Youth Pairs

The 13th European Youth Pairs Championships are due to be held in Liepaja, Latvia, from 13th to 20th July 2016. The planned schedule is:

13th & 14th July – Mixed pairs (U26)
15th -17th July – Pairs (U26, U26 women, U21 and U16)
18th – 20th July – Youth Bridge Camp

Pairs who would like to be nominated to represent England in the event should apply to their [squad leader](#) or dawn@ebu.co.uk by March 31st. The EBU may be able to provide a subsidy towards playing in this event, although priority will be given to players in the junior squads. Applications are welcome from all interested pairs.

CHANGES OF VENUES

There will likely be changes to the venues for the Northern Midweek Congress in August, the Autumn Congress in October, and the Northern Year End Congress. Details will be posted on our website as soon as they are confirmed.

Easter Festival, London

The congress is held at the [Royal National Hotel](#), near Russell Square in central London.

Special rates are available at the nearby Imperial Hotel. Four nights, bed & breakfast in single rooms is available for £268. Rates for shorter or longer stays are also available. See the [event webpage](#) for more details

To book contact the Central Reservation Office.
Tel: 020 7278 7871;
Email: info@imperialhotels.co.uk



Northern Easter Festival

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

It is 10 minutes walk from the historic spa town of Ilkley and the station. A shuttle service between the station and hotel will be provided for those travelling by train. The hotel has its own free car park.

Rates for Dinner, Bed & Breakfast start at £52.50 per person, per night. See the [event entry form](#) for more details.



STUDENT & SCHOOLS - NATIONAL SIMULTANEOUS PAIRS

The Students National Simultaneous Pairs, run by EBED, is open to all bona fide bridge students who are currently having lessons. It includes a bridge and minibridge competition.

If you run a beginners group please run a heat - or if you know a teacher please encourage them to take part.

The arranged dates are from Monday 22nd February to Friday 1st April. You can run your heat any time during this period, including running over more than one session if you need to.

To take part in the event, which is free of charge, please contact Lisa by phone 01296 317217 or [email](#) to ask for a pack to be sent by post.

See [here](#) for more information.



Schapiro Spring Foursomes *29th April - 3rd May, Stratford-upon-Avon*

Get your entries in for one of the highlights of the English bridge calendar

Entries are coming in for the Schapiro Spring Foursomes - **over half the places have been filled**. Join the [teams who have already registered](#), which includes some elite international players - currently representing fourteen countries - and take part in one of our most prestigious events.

With two consolation events available it ensures a full long-weekend of high quality bridge. Entries are limited, so get your entry in soon before it fills up. See the [event webpage](#) for more details.

STANDBY VOLUNTEERS WANTED

We would always like to hear from pairs who are willing to act as standby at our events, especially for Swiss Pairs and Swiss Teams competitions.

Both the directors and the players are very grateful for the role played by standby pairs and your generosity would be much appreciated.

We ask that you attend the competition and if you are required to play then you would receive free entry to the event. If you are not required then reasonable travel expenses will be paid.

For more information, or to volunteer, please contact Gordon@ebu.co.uk.



Dates for your diary

- 14th - 17th March: Club Stratified Sim Pairs
4th - 7th April: British Spring Sim Pairs
- 15th - 17th April: Lady Milne Trophy, N. Ireland
- 16th - 17th April: [National Pairs Final](#), Birmingham
- 22nd April - 1st May: [Lambourne Jersey Festival](#)
- 7th May: [Garden Cities Trophy](#), Regional Finals
- 20th - 22nd May: Teltscher Trophy, Edinburgh
- 28th - 30th May: [Spring Bank Holiday Congress](#), Stratford-upon-Avon
- 4th - 5th June: [Corwen Trophy](#), Birmingham
- 11th - 12th June: [Pachabo Cup](#), Birmingham
- 14th - 16th June: [Southern Midweek Congress](#), Bournemouth
- 16th - 26th June: European Teams Championships, Budapest

SUMMER MEETING 2016

The Summer Meeting - in its new home in Eastbourne - is just over five months away. Be sure to start making your plans soon.

Some information on travel, hotels, etc, can be found at www.ebu.co.uk/eastbourne-pre-congress

The main congress programme is available [online](#).

The Really Easy Congress will run from the Tuesday to Thursday, with a free 'introductory day' on Monday. Further details will be confirmed soon.



**NEW FOR
2016 -
GOLF &
BRIDGE**

We plan to hold a combined golf and bridge competition on 22nd August. If you are interested in playing please let us know as soon as possible.

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