



EBU Event Focus

Issue 43: April 2016

Dear EBU member

Last month we noted that some competitions later in the year may be changing venues. Details of these changes are now confirmed and are listed below.

The events we have in the coming months are a mix of established and new venues, but all are in popular destinations. It's always good to book your place and your accommodation early, but particularly in these places which can be busy in the summer months, so don't delay and make your plans today.

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

Lambourne Jersey Festival

22nd April - 1st May

A 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 2016).

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](#).

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

The venue is 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.



Schapiro Spring Foursomes

29th April - 3rd May, Stratford-upon-Avon

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

Over 80% of the places have been filled for the forthcoming Schapiro Spring Foursomes. Join the [teams who have already registered](#), which includes some elite

HUBERT PHILLIPS BOWL 2016

Last call for entries

Entries for the [Hubert Phillips Bowl](#) close at **midday on 18th April**. This is an extension of the previous deadline so please enter by then.

The competition is for mixed teams, played on a full pivot principle, so you partner each team mate for a third of the match.

There is seeding, so every team is guaranteed at least one match before meeting a seed, and a plate competition (at no extra charge) to ensure all non-seeded teams play at least two matches.

The draw for the early rounds is 'regionalised' to try to help keep travelling distances small.

To enter please contact the Competitions Department on 01296 317203/219 or via comps@ebu.co.uk or use the members area of the website - www.ebu.co.uk/members.

CHANGES OF VENUES

In the March newsletter we mentioned likely changes to some venues. We can confirm the following:

[Northern Midweek Congress](#), 9th - 11th August: now at the Cedar Court Hotel

international players - currently representing fifteen 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.

If you need team mates [let us know](#) - we may be able to match you up.

The event takes place at the [Holiday Inn in central Stratford-upon-Avon](#). Set on the banks of the river the hotel has a lovely setting for a weekend of bridge. See the [event webpage](#) for room prices.

Rooms which are being held for booking by EBU members at preferential rates will be put on general release at the end of the week, so please book promptly if you intend staying at the venue.

Spring Bank Holiday Congress

28th - 30th May, Stratford-upon-Avon

To bid or not to bid, that is the question at this congress in the home of the bard

A relaxed congress held in Stratford-upon-Avon with plenty of time to enjoy the town in the free mornings - or perhaps stay an extra night and 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. There is also a Really Easy Afternoon, for novice players, on Saturday afternoon.

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



Really Easy Afternoon

28th May, 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:

- ✓ [Richmond Bridge Club](#) - 1:30pm start
- ✓ [Spring Bank Holiday Congress](#) - 2:00pm start

More venues may be added in the coming weeks.

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 event takes place at the [Holiday Inn in central Stratford-upon-Avon](#). Set on the banks of the river the hotel has a lovely setting for a weekend of bridge. See the [event webpage](#) for room prices.

in Wakefield.

The Northern Year End Congress, 28th - 30th December: now back at the Hilton Hotel in Blackpool and will be called the [Blackpool Year End Congress](#).

[Autumn Congress](#), 14th - 16th October, remains at the Holiday Inn in Peterborough in 2016.

SIM PAIRS EVENTS

The next sim pairs event is the EBED Spring Sim Pairs in early May.

Proceeds from the event will go to supporting EBED's work relating to the social and health benefits linked to playing bridge, including combatting social isolation and cognitive decline.

We know that many of you like to take part in sim pairs which support charitable causes, so we hope you are keen to take part. Please also encourage your club to hold a heat if it is not already doing so.

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.

[This document](#) outlines some of the benefits of participation in Sim Pairs, including the chance to win £1000.

To see the clubs which have signed up to host a heat, go to the [sims page of our website](#), and click on the relevant day.

STANDBY VOLUNTEERS

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

See [here](#) more information, or to volunteer please contact Gordon@ebu.co.uk.

Southern Midweek Congress
14th - 16th June, Bournemouth

A Green Pointed midweek congress on the south coast

The congress includes a 3 session 'all play through' Championship Pairs event and a one day Swiss Teams event. Both events will be 'stratified' into three categories with extra masterpoints available.

Entry fees are lower than for other congresses, although as a result there is no prize money.

The event takes place at the [Hallmark Hotel](#). Please book with Bridge Overseas on 0800 0346 246.

The congress schedule gives time to enjoy Bournemouth - the pier and centre of the town is less than a mile from the hotel - or the hotel's spa, swimming pool and leisure facilities.

The Summer Meeting - in its new home in Eastbourne - is just over four 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](#), and we are taking entries. The price list is available [here](#) - and don't forget that those who entered the full congress in 2015 can receive up to £50 off the full congress in 2016.

Really Easy Congress: This will run from the Tuesday to Thursday, with a free 'introductory day' on Monday. The congress combines competitions and lessons and is aimed at all levels of 'less experienced' players. The group will split for most of the sessions, with the content of the lessons, and speed of play, geared towards the ability of the participants in each group.

Other dates for your diary

- 15th - 17th April: Lady Milne Trophy, N. Ireland
- 7th May: [Garden Cities Trophy](#), Regional Finals
- 25th June: [Garden Cities Trophy](#), National Final
- 20th - 22nd May: Teltscher Trophy, Edinburgh
- 4th - 5th June: [Corwen Trophy](#), Birmingham
- 11th - 12th June: [Pachabo Cup](#), Birmingham
- 16th - 26th June: European Teams Championships, Budapest
- 1st - 3rd July: [Riviera Congress](#), Torquay

**NEW FOR
2016 - GOLF &
BRIDGE**

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

Gerard Faulkner Salver

Entries are open for the Seniors Knockout for the Gerard Faulkner Salver, and close on 3rd June. The event is open to those born in 1956 or earlier. A 'repechage system' is used, so every non-seeded team is guaranteed two matches. More details are on the [event webpage](#).

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

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