



EBU Event Focus

Issue 50: November 2016

Dear EBU member

As the clock ticks down to the end of year, that means it's time to start thinking about your bridge plans for after Christmas and in to the New Year. There are lots of upcoming competitions, so why not enter now before you get distracted by mince pies and tinsel.

But, if you want to play in a congress before then, and you were born in 1956 or earlier, don't forget **we are still taking entries for this weekend's Seniors Congress**. It is at a new venue near Reading - see below for details.

As always, if you have any queries about any of the events featured here then please don't hesitate to 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.

For preferential rates for most venue hotels book via the EBU Accommodation Booking Service - call Bridge Overseas Freephone on: 0800 0346 246.

Seniors Congress

4th - 6th November

New venue - Wokefield Park nr Reading

A three-day congress for those born in 1956 or earlier. The congress includes:

A four-session Championship Pairs on Friday & Saturday.

A two-session Swiss Pairs on Saturday for non-qualifiers and those joining on Saturday.

A two-session Swiss Teams on Sunday.

[More details](#)

The event takes place at a new venue, [Wokefield Park](#), near Reading. There is free parking, wifi, tea and coffee, plus residents can receive discounted rates on the hotel golf course. Please book through Bridge Overseas on: 0800 0346 246. Catering information is available on our [website](#).

National Point-a-Board Teams

21st - 22nd January
Young Chelsea BC, London

After three years as part of the National Teams Congress*, this competition now becomes a congress in its own right.

Saturday - a qualifying multiple-teams.

Sunday - a main final for the top teams, and a consolation final for everyone else.

A short guide to Point-a-Board matches is available [here](#), and articles are available by [David Gold](#) and [Brian Senior](#).

[More details](#)

* - The Swiss Teams element of the National Teams Congress is in May at West Midlands Bridge Club - see [here](#) for more details.

Year End Congress

27th - 30th December
Royal National Hotel, London

The popular congress for those who have had enough 'cold turkey' over the Christmas period.

Tues 27th & Wed 28th - Stratified Swiss Pairs

Thurs 29th - Mixed & Open Pairs

Friday 30th - Stratified Swiss Teams

Tuesday 27th - A Really Easy Afternoon for less experienced players (below Master & lower than Jack on NGS). There will also be heats at other venues, including Richmond Bridge Club.

[More details](#)

Blackpool Year End Congress

28th - 30th December

Hilton Hotel, Blackpool

The Congress is held at the Royal National Hotel, [WC1H 0DG](#). A four-night package rate is available at the Imperial Hotel, 100 yards away. Please see our website for more details and book directly with the hotel.

After a few years away, the 'northern' Year End Congress returns to its popular former home at the Hilton in Blackpool.

Wed 28th - Mixed & Open Pairs

Wed 28th & Thurs 29th - Swiss Pairs

Friday 30th - Swiss Teams

[More details](#)

Arranged rates are available at the Hilton through Bridge Overseas. Please contact them on 0800 0346 246.

Overseas Congress, Lisbon

2nd - 8th February

Join us for some late winter sun, bridge and culture in Portugal's capital. The congress may sell out, so book soon.

[More details](#)

Harrogate Congress

17th - 19th February

A long weekend of bridge in Yorkshire, with teams and pairs competitions (including an Improvers event). Now run by the YCBA on behalf of the EBU

[More details](#)

Online Knockout

The Online Knockout is open to teams from all home nations. Matches are played online - approximately one per month - with a plate competition for early losers. **Entries close 22nd December**

[More details](#)

Prize Vouchers - redeem yours by 1st May

Please be aware that prize vouchers - which were last issued at congresses in 2009 (thereafter prizes have been credited directly to your EBU account) - will not be accepted after 1st May 2017.

Please search your drawers to unearth any you may still have. If you find any then please send them to:

Accounts, English Bridge Union, Broadfields,
Bicester Road, Aylesbury, HP19 8AZ.

We hope that you will include an entry for a forthcoming congress, or an order from the [EBU Shop](#), so they can be used for payment for that. But if not then they can be credited to your account for future use or withdrawal.



Permitted System Cards

Please be aware that the EBU only permits the use of the EBU20B type of system card. This has been the only type available from the EBU Shop and website for a number of years, however some players may still be using the EBU20A type. If you are not using the EBU20B type please switch to it, and note that from 1st April 2017 we will enforce the use of the EBU20B type of card at all EBU congresses. Blank, and simple pre-completed cards, can be downloaded [here](#).

One feature of the EBU20B system card is the section on the front cover which allows you to highlight significant features of your system which may not otherwise be obvious without more detailed study of your card or knowledge of your agreements – an example being to indicate that a 1♣ opening may be a two card club suit and that the hand may also include an outside 5-card suit. Please assist your opponents by completing this section and making it available to them prior to each round.

If you have any queries please write to Chief
Tournament Director, Gordon Rainsford
- gordon@ebu.co.uk

Other dates for your diary

19 - 20 Nov
11 - 12 Feb

Tollemache Qualifying Round (for county representatives), Birmingham
Tollemache Final (for county representatives), West Midlands BC

16 - 18 Dec

Junior Channel Trophy, Young Chelsea Bridge Club

16 - 18 Dec

Teltscher Trophy Trials, West Midlands BC (for accepted applicants)

6 - 8 Jan

Camrose Trophy - 1st weekend, Brandon Hall Hotel, Warwickshire.

3 - 5 Mar

Spectators welcome. We seek volunteers to help - please contact Gordon Rainsford

Camrose Trophy - 2nd weekend, Scotland

9 - 12 Jan

British Winter Sim Pairs

7 - 8 Feb

Bridge England Sim Pairs

27 - 29 Jan

Lady Milne Trials, Young Chelsea BC (for accepted applicants - please apply to dawn@ebu.co.uk by 12th December)

Thanks for reading. We hope to see you at an event soon.

