



# ***EBU Event Focus***

## ***Issue 87: December 2019***

Dear EBU member

**Confirmation of Blackpool Year End venue:** apologies for my earlier email, to make it clear the Blackpool Year End Congress is being held at the Imperial Hotel, Blackpool Conference Centre & Spa.

After a lull in November, there is again an increase in activity in the run up to Christmas and the end of the year. For all bridge players Christmas doesn't just mean turkey and tinsel, but also trumps and transfers, as the festive period gives plenty of chance to play.

If your usual partner or team mates are unavailable for any EBU congress you don't need to miss out. We are delighted to offer the opportunity for players and partnerships wishing to play in events the ability to sign up for a partner or teammates through the EBU. To do this, they should email [charlie@ebu.co.uk](mailto:charlie@ebu.co.uk) who will contact them with prospective teammates or partners as soon as they become available. This presents a great opportunity for players to take part in more competitions and meet new friends whilst enjoying the social game of bridge. There is also a message board on each congress webpage you can use to try to make contact with others who are seeking someone for that event. Don't be stuck at home over Christmas if you'd rather be playing bridge - post your details, or respond to someone else, and find a game for the Year End Congresses.

If you wish to enter one of the Year End Congresses in London or Blackpool please make every effort to do so in advance of the office closing for Christmas, although you can enter at the venue in London (though this will carry a £2 surcharge). The office is open to take entries for the Year End Congresses until 5pm on Friday 21st - please call 01296 317203/219 or email [comps@ebu.co.uk](mailto:comps@ebu.co.uk), or enter through My EBU. We will re-open at 9am on Wednesday 2nd January.

There are also some exciting changes coming to the EBU Funbridge games in the New Year. We will have a free game on Jan 1 and on Feb 29. There will not be an annual ladder competition next year, but there will instead be an increase in the prizes in the monthly ladders, especially the handicap one; the IMP ladder

will become three-monthly. We hope that all these changes will increase the number of players who win prizes.

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all the EBU Staff.**

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](tel:01296317203)/219 or at [comps@ebu.co.uk](mailto:comps@ebu.co.uk). Entries can be made by calling this number, or through My EBU, the members area of the website - [www.ebu.co.uk/members](http://www.ebu.co.uk/members).

### **Year End Congress, London**

*27th - 30th December*  
*ILEC Centre, London*

There is a new venue for this year, the festive fun has moved to the ILEC, Earl's Court. Join us for four days of bridge in the capital.

Fri 27th - Sat 28th: Stratified Swiss Pairs  
Sat 28th: Jack High Swiss Pairs\*  
Sun 29th: Mixed or Open Pairs  
Mon 30th: Stratified Swiss Teams

\* - The competition is back after being very well received last year and has a lower entry fee than most of our events. It is only open to players no higher than Jack on the NGS.

Accommodation packages are available at the venue, but are now subject to availability.

[More details](#)

### **Blackpool Year End Congress**

*28th - 30th December*  
*Imperial Hotel, Blackpool Conference Centre & Spa*

We round off bridge in 2019 back on the Lancashire Coast.

Sat 28th: Mixed or Open Pairs  
Sat 28th - Sun 29th: Stratified Swiss Pairs  
Mon 30th: Stratified Swiss Teams

The venue is the same as previous years, but has been re-named. Accommodation packages are available at the venue. See the website for details.

[More details](#)



## **Masters Pairs**

*1st March*

*Various Locations*

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The Masters Pairs is a national competition hosted in club heats to compete for the Ann Staveley trophy, it is aimed at players with fewer Masterpoints.

This event is open to players below the rank of Regional Master and allows free entry for members who have achieved a landmark promotion to the rank of Master.

Green Points are awarded throughout, both for session results and for final ranking. Session awards go to the top 1/4 of the overall field based on the session scores alone. In addition, ranking points go to the top 1/2 of the overall field based on the two-session total score. Session awards and final ranking awards are cumulative.

The results will be stratified with those below the rank of Master in the 'B' stratification.

[More details](#)

## **National Pairs**

*Regional Heats: 15th March*

*Various Locations*

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The Regional Heats are open to all and played at various venues around the country. All venues will play the same boards and the event will be scored across the entire field. The top 50 pairs nationally will qualify to play in the National Final.

An additional ranking list will be produced from each region (scored by itself), with the winning pairs awarded regional trophies.

Green Points are awarded.

The National Final venue is to be confirmed - if qualifiers for the National Final are unable to play, places will be offered to the highest-placed non-qualifiers.

[More details](#)

**Rome Congress**

5th - 11th February

Hotel Quirinale, Rome

Join us for a marvellous congress in Rome.

It will be held at the 4\* Hotel Quirinale, located by the Piazza della Repubblica, Piazza Venezia and the Trevi Fountain.

To attend you must book your accommodation through Bridge Overseas. For more details, or to make a reservation, please see [here](#), or call 08000 346246.

The Congress includes Pairs and Teams competitions, with Green Pointed Swiss competitions to start and finish the event.

[More details](#)

### Online Knockout Teams

Entries close 14th January

A knockout competition for teams of four, with all matches played online.

The competition is open to teams from all home nations, so why not involve your friends from over the border?!

There is a plate competition for those defeated in early rounds, so everyone is guaranteed two matches.

Juniors receive half-price entry on a pro-rata basis.

Green Points are awarded in the main competition, and Blue Points in the Plate competition.

[More details](#)

### Harrogate Congress

21st - 23rd February  
Cairn Hotel, Harrogate

A popular long weekend of bridge, organised by Yorkshire CBA on behalf of the EBU. **Please make entries directly with the YCBA.** Please see [the YCBA website](#) for more details and an entry form.

Friday afternoon - Mixed & Open Pairs  
Friday afternoon - Improvers Pairs  
Friday evening & Saturday - three session Swiss Pairs  
Sunday - two session Swiss Teams

Entry to the Full Congress or Swiss Pairs includes a two course buffet supper on Saturday.

[More details](#)

### Other dates for your diary

[14 - 15 Dec](#)



[Seniors Trials for the Teltscher Trophy](#)

[20 - 22 Dec](#)



[Junior Channel Trophy](#) - Utrecht, Netherlands

[3 - 5/6 Jan](#)



[European Open Trial Final Stage](#) and [Women's Trial Stage One](#)

[3/4 - 5 Jan](#)

[Midlands Counties Congress](#) and [Manchester Congress](#)

[10 - 12 Jan](#)



[Camrose Trophy](#), 1st Weekend - Scotland

[11 - 12 Jan](#)



[Lady Milne Trial Stage 1](#)

[13 - 16 Jan](#)

[British Winter Sims](#)

[17 - 20 Jan](#)

[European Women's Trial Final Stage](#)

This email has been sent to EBU members who have recently played in an EBU organised event. This email was sent to [sam@ebu.co.uk](mailto:sam@ebu.co.uk). To unsubscribe from future Event Focus newsletters [Unsubscribe here](#). Please note this does not affect your general preferences for emails from the EBU.

Read online at

<https://www.ebu.co.uk/dynamic/sendy/w/MIsoY1GyD5sKNegPgMLm7w>



English Bridge Union

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