



# ***EBU Event Focus***

## ***Issue 89: February 2020***

Dear EBU member

The coming weeks and months are always full of events for all standards of players, and this year is no exception. We have a range of competitions suitable for congress newcomers or 'lower ranked' players, and some of these are highlighted below. The upcoming [Ranked Masters](#) provides the opportunity to play in a field limited to other players of a similar rank to yourself. For 'higher ranked' players the Spring Foursomes which always attracts a strong field is on the horizon. With regional events, and the Easter Festivals, there really is something for everyone - we hope there's something which takes your fancy.

### **County Green Point Weekend in March**

The next County Green Point weekends are happening across the country over the weekend of 7-8 March. East Anglia, Wiltshire, Bedfordshire, Leicestershire, Manchester, Kent and Merseyside all have events taking place. As these are county run events, please contact the counties directly for further information.

### **Play in the Club Stratified Sim Pairs in March**

Taking place Monday 9th to Thursday 12th March, is the Club Stratified Sim Pairs. In this event, as well as an overall ranking, the results are stratified into four categories. It means each pair can compare their scores to those of players of a comparable ranking.

### **Really Easy Spring Break**

The next Really Easy Weekend is to take place at the Wroxton House Hotel, near Banbury on the 3rd - 5th April.

The hotel has 16 rooms left available at the special discounted package rate that the EBU has negotiated with them, **please book with the hotel first before paying for your bridge** either via your [My EBU](#) account or by emailing competitions at [charlie@ebu.co.uk](mailto:charlie@ebu.co.uk).

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](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).

## **Harrogate Spring Congress**

*21st - 23rd February*

*Various Locations*

---

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

As in the past, a buffet meal on Saturday is included in the entry fee for those playing in the Swiss Pairs, or in the full congress.

All entries and enquiries should be made to Stuart Davies of Yorkshire CBA - email: [stuart@svd1.uk](mailto:stuart@svd1.uk)

[More details](#)



## **Masters Pairs**

*1st March*

*Various Locations*

---

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*

---

Since 2016 the National Pairs has had an updated structure without local heats and with an increased number of regional venues, open to all EBU members who wish to enter. Now we are going to extend this, to try to reduce entry fees and increase numbers of venues and players.

Accordingly, the regional heats in 2020 will take place at several clubs around the country and will be run by those clubs, promoted among their members as well as nationally. 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 will be held at the Hilton Warwick - if qualifiers for the National Final are unable to play, places will be offered to the highest-placed non-qualifiers.

We are still open to having more venues for the National Pairs heats. If your club is interested in holding a heat, please contact [comps@ebu.co.uk](mailto:comps@ebu.co.uk).

[More details](#)

## Portland Pairs

*29th March*  
*Various Locations*

---

A national Mixed Pairs competition held at various venues around the country and scored across all venues. It is played over two sessions, and Green Points are awarded.

Heats will be held at:

Billericay  
Bradford  
Devizes  
Exeter  
Oxford  
Richmond  
Solihull (WMBC)  
Tunbridge Wells  
Welwyn Garden City  
Young Chelsea

Further clubs are expected.

[More details](#)

## Easter Festival London

10th - 13th April  
ILEC Conference Centre,  
London

The congress in 2019 at the ILEC Conference Centre near Earls Court was successful and well received, so we are going to continue to run this congress there. It is just a short stroll from West Brompton station, which has both underground and national rail services.

Spend your Easter weekend in the capital. The congress is suitable for everyone, with a range of competitions for all abilities.

Green points are awarded to the top of half of the field for the Championship Pairs. The remaining events are fully green pointed.

[More details](#)

## Northern Easter Festival

10th - 12th April  
York Marriott Hotel

This year the event is being run at the exciting new venue of the York Marriott Hotel.

The full program of events includes Swiss Pairs, Swiss Teams, Mixed & Open Pairs, Improvers Pairs, and Improvers Teams.

The Improvers Pairs and Teams are separate, more relaxed competitions, alongside the main congress event, and aimed at less experienced players.

The Swiss events are fully Green Pointed; the Mixed and Open Pairs award Blue Points.

The event is run on behalf of the EBU by the Yorkshire Contract Bridge Association, visit their website for further details.

[More details](#)

## National Swiss Teams Congress

2nd - 3rd May  
West Midlands BC Solihull

Formerly part of the National Teams Congress, the Swiss Teams competition is now its own congress, with fourteen matches across the two days.

The event is being run by Warwickshire CBA on behalf of the EBU. Please enter with WCBA directly. More details and an entry form can be found on their website -

[www.nationalswissteam.co.uk](http://www.nationalswissteam.co.uk).

[More details](#)

## Other dates for your diary

[14 - 16 Feb](#)

[Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer](#)

[29 Feb - 6 Mar](#)



[EBL Winter Games](#)

[6 - 8 Mar](#)



[Camrose Trophy 2nd Weekend](#)

[13 - 17 Mar](#)



[Olympiad Open Trial](#)

[19 - 29 Mar](#)



[ACBL National](#)

**3 - 7 Apr**

[Olympiad Mixed Trial](#)

**17 - 19 Apr**



[Lady Milne](#)

**24 - 28 Apr**

[Olympiad Senior Trial](#)

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/NPiV1892KgVDwhIE5y763Uwc3A>



English Bridge Union

[01296 317203/219](tel:01296317203)

[comps@ebu.co.uk](mailto:comps@ebu.co.uk)