



# An overview: Simultaneous Pairs 2018

For the 2018 programme of simultaneous pairs events, this overview is intended to highlight the cash prize structure, the features of each of the events, and address some of the concerns which have been raised in the past in relation to the events.

Please note that all clubs can participate in these competitions – including unaffiliated English clubs though they will pay a surcharge in all bar the EBED Sims (there is no surcharge for any clubs in those events)

## The Events

There are a number of different events covered under the umbrella of 'EBU Sims', as outlined below.

January	British Winter Sim Pairs	May	EBED Spring Sim Pairs
February	Bridge England Sim Pairs	July	British Summer Sim Pairs
March	Club Stratified Sim Pairs	September	EBED Autumn Sim Pairs
April	British Spring Sim Pairs	October	British Autumn Sim Pairs

Dates for 2018 are available below.

### ***EBED Spring Simultaneous Pairs***

### ***EBED Autumn Simultaneous Pairs***

Proceeds from these events go to the charity, English Bridge Education & Development.



EBED is committed to encouraging more people to take up bridge, especially young people, as well as building the infrastructure which will make that aim a reality. We know that Sims in aid of charity are popular, so we hope this event will be particularly well supported as the entry fees will go to supporting a charity dedicated to the development of bridge in England.

The events are organised by the EBU on behalf of EBED.

EBED Spring Pairs – Monday 30<sup>th</sup> April to Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018

EBED Autumn Pairs – Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2018

### ***British Simultaneous Pairs***

These are the Sims that were previously the BGB Simultaneous Pairs, and include clubs from Scotland and Wales. They run in Winter, Spring, Summer and Autumn, each on four days per week.

British Winter Pairs – Monday 8<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2018

British Spring Pairs – Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April to Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2018

British Summer Pairs – Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> to Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2018

British Autumn Pairs – Monday 1<sup>st</sup> to Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2018

### ***Bridge England Simultaneous Pairs***

This aims to raise funds to aid performance in our international teams.

In 2018 the proceeds will go towards supporting our junior teams which are playing in the World Youth Team Championships in China. England was the only country to have all four junior teams qualify from the 2017 European Championships, and we hope that all members will be keen to support our juniors as they make English bridge history when they play in Suzhou in August.

Bridge England Simultaneous Pairs – Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2018

## **Club Stratified Pairs**

In this event, as well as an overall ranking, the results are stratified into four categories. It therefore means that each pair can compare their scores to those of players of a comparable ranking. The main strat 'A' is open to everyone but if either member of the pair is a Tournament Master or above you will be in the 'A' strat and can only get master points from the overall ranking. If both players are below the rank of Tournament Master they will be 'B' strat; both below Master in 'C' strat and both below District Master in 'D' strat.

Blue points and local points will be awarded to the top third of the overall ranking list. In addition the top third of each strat will get blue points and local points.

If you are entitled to overall points and points for your strat, you will only get the higher of the awards – you won't get two lots of points.

Club Stratified Pairs – Monday 12<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018

### **Entry fees**

For all the above events the entry fee is £2.80 per player, with the exception of the Club Stratified pairs, which is £2.30 per player. This is an increase of 10p per player, there having been no increase for 2017. The usual Universal Membership Subscription payment also applies. Any unaffiliated clubs participating in the British, Bridge England, or Club Stratified Sims pairs will be charged a 50p surcharge per player. There is no surcharge for entries in the EBED Sims events.

### **Other events**

The EBU also hosts sims events on behalf of clubs and counties. These will be listed on the [EBU sims webpage](#). Details of the 'sims hosting service' offered by the EBU are available [here](#).

The EBU is not involved in the organisation of other sims events which take place. Please contact the organisers for more information on those events. The EBU supports the Children in Need Simultaneous Pairs in November by making the relevant club session exempt from a Universal Membership Subscription charge.

All details given below apply to EBU sim pairs, but not necessarily to the 'other events' listed above.

### **Organisation**

Club may run heats on any day or days of their choice. Only one session per club, per day, is permitted

Clubs should register online, via the Members Area. You can register now for all events in 2018 and we would encourage them to do so, so that members can put the dates in their diaries. If you don't know, or have lost, your password you can get a reminder via [www.ebu.co.uk/passwords](http://www.ebu.co.uk/passwords).

If entries are received more than two weeks prior to the event a poster will be emailed to the club, which they can personalise, and then display at the club. It will include information on how participants can access results and hand records afterwards.

When the club is registered, the club representative will be able to download all necessary files directly from their own personal page of the Members Area, without any need to contact the EBU.

Clubs will of course submit their results electronically, but this will be done as part of the normal submission process – there is no need to submit a Sim Pairs file independently. Results are processed automatically so a prompt submission of the file will ensure that the participants at the club will get to see their national results as quickly as possible!

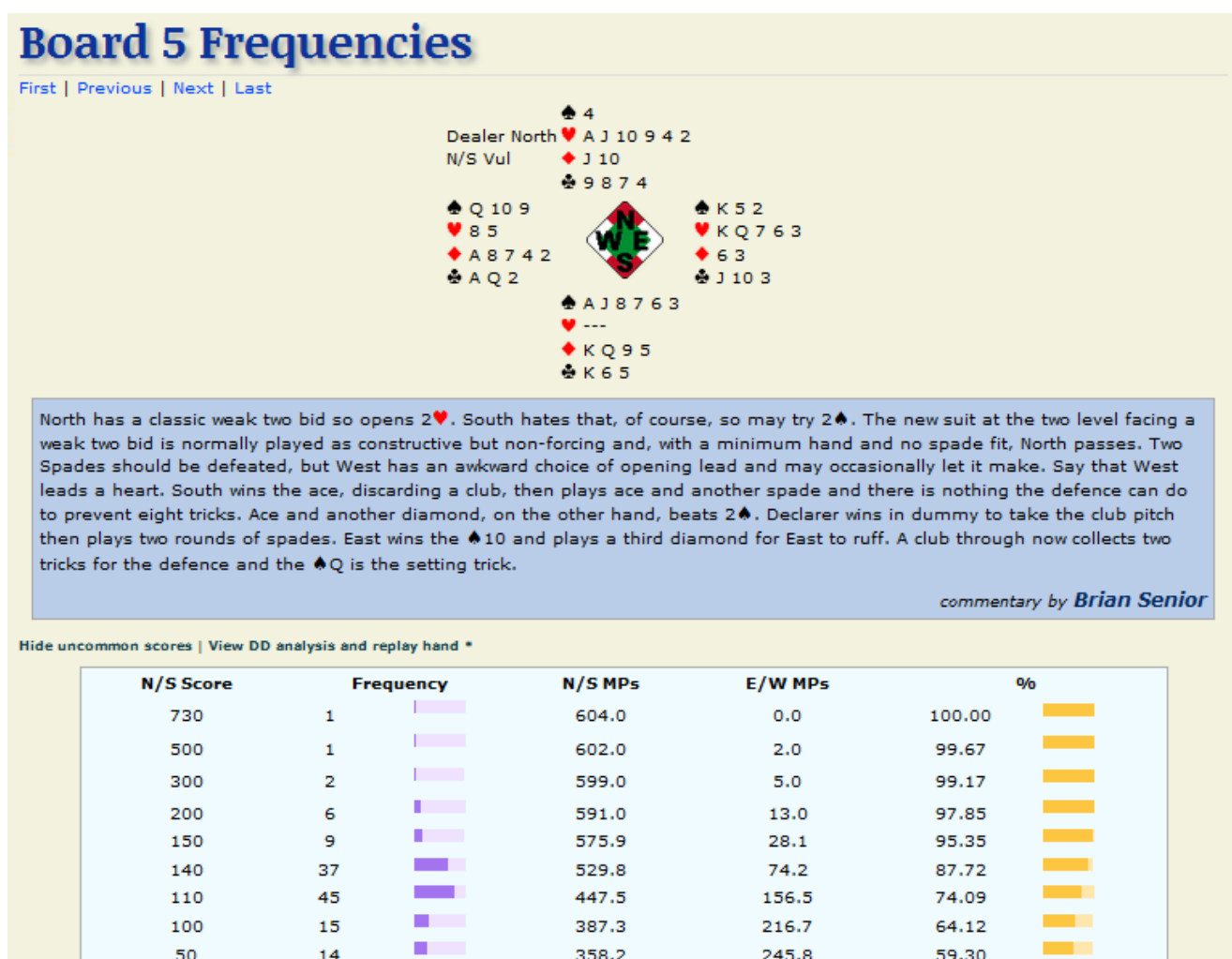
Clubs will be charged automatically, and the amount will be added to their monthly or bi-monthly P2P invoice. If the club pays this by direct debit, there's no need to lift a finger!

As well as deal files, travellers and curtain cards, commentaries on the hands will be available to be downloaded by the club representative via the Members Area. They will also be available online to be viewed or downloaded by the players after the event. 36 hands are provided, so it covers all movements. Please be aware that, from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016, only sessions in which a pair plays 70% of the boards in use are eligible for Master Points. [See here](#) for more details and for suggested movements to help accommodate this requirement.

More information on entering, and how to run a heat, can be found [here](#). All past results, current results, instructions and conditions of contest are found at <http://www.ebu.co.uk/sims/>.

## Results

All the results will appear online and are updated as soon as any results are submitted. The results service is, we believe, excellent, with a breakdown of score frequency and matchpoint percentage, along with the hands, commentary and double dummy analysis feature. Please see the screenshot below for an example of the results service.



## The Hands

We sometimes receive comments that some members are deterred from entering sims events because they believe the hands are 'rigged' and are intentionally made to include abnormal distributions and awkward situations that they do not enjoy. **This is not the case.**

The hands are computer dealt, and each set is used exactly as dealt by the dealing program (we use Big Deal for this). There is no manipulation of the hands, nor do we deal 100 and pick the 'strangest' 36. They are as natural as those that would be dealt (assuming adequate shuffling) at any regular club night. So whilst there may be a 5-0 split, or an eight card suit, they are no more likely in these events than in any other event that has properly random hands. Some players who are used to hand dealing and do not shuffle well enough may find these hands to be more 'lively' than they are used to, but that is not because these hands are fixed, but because the hands they deal for themselves are not properly random.

We therefore believe that the hands can be enjoyed by anyone, regardless of their level of play.

## Commentaries

For every event there is a hand commentary available. These are written by experts, giving their own opinions on the hands, and are intended to be both entertaining and educational. As such they offer a value-for-money lesson, particularly as they deal with boards which the reader played, and not with hypothetical scenarios – it is not so much “what would you do?” but “what did you do?”. They are intended to cater for all ability levels, so we believe they will be interesting and useful for all competitors.

The commentaries are available electronically, and can be downloaded free of charge immediately following the event. If preferred they can be posted to the club for a cost of £4 per pack of 10 booklets.

There is also a double dummy analysis feature so you can see what you could, or should, have done, and where your chosen line went wrong.

## Master Points

Master Points are awarded so it is therefore an excellent opportunity for those who are seeking a promotion to try to earn a few hundred more.

In addition to the local points issued by the club, the leading pairs nationally will also be awarded **Blue Points**. You can find out more about Blue Points at <http://www.ebu.co.uk/documents/laws-and-ethics/licensing/blue-points.pdf>

## Cash Prize Structure

**Overall winners:** The overall winners of the EBED Simultaneous Pairs events and the British Simultaneous Pairs events will now each receive a cash prize of **£50 per pair**.



There is no cash prize for the overall winners of the Bridge England Sims or Club Stratified Sims.

**Heat winners:** The winners of every heat – i.e. the pair within each club which achieves the best national score in their club in any event – hosted by an affiliated club, or by a club from another 'home nation' will be entered into a prize draw. The winners at any participating unaffiliated English clubs will not be included.

This includes the heat winners of all EBU organised events – i.e. the EBED Simultaneous Pairs events, the British Simultaneous Pairs Events, the Bridge England Sims and the Club Stratified Sims. The draw will be made at the AGM in November.

The prizes are:

**1<sup>st</sup> prize - £1000 per pair**      **2<sup>nd</sup> prize - £500 per pair**      **3<sup>rd</sup> prize - £200 per pair**  
**plus 7\* additional runners-up prizes of £100 per pair**

**Club winners:** Every club which enters a heat of any EBU organised event will be included in this prize draw, excluding any participating unaffiliated English clubs. One 'entry' in the draw is awarded for every ten tables (or part thereof) which take part in any single heat. Please see overleaf for an example. The draw will be made at the AGM in November.

The prizes are:

**1<sup>st</sup> prize - £1000**                      **2<sup>nd</sup> prize - £500**                      **3<sup>rd</sup> prize - £200**  
**plus 7\* additional runners-up prizes of £100**

**Club draw: an example**

Club X hosts the following heats:

<b>Event</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Tables</b>	<b>Draw entries</b>
British Winter Pairs	Monday	8	1
British Winter Pairs	Tuesday	4	1
Bridge England Sim Pairs	Tuesday	10 1/2	2
Club Stratified Sim Pairs	Wednesday	25	3

Note:

The entry is not cumulative per event, and is calculated only by heat, so in the British Winter Pairs they have received one entry per day, and no 'bonus' for having more than ten tables.

In the Bridge England Sim Pairs they had more than ten tables in play so they are eligible for a bonus entry in the draw.

In the heat of the Club Stratified Pairs they played their session as a two section event – 13 tables in one section and 12 in the other. In such situations the entry is viewed cumulatively, so they receive two extra entries in the draw as they exceeded twenty tables.

\* - This reduction in the number of prizes from 2017 to 2018 reflects the percentage decrease in the number of entries in 2017, in order to maintain the ratio between revenue and prize fund.

**Value for Money**

We have received feedback that some people do not believe these events to be value for money. We believe that on the contrary they are very good value. It is an opportunity for a player to enter a national competition, with expert analysis of the hands, a chance to earn lots of Master Points and Blue Points, and offers the opportunity for them and their club to win a large cash prize. This is all without needing to leave the comfort of their home club.

We hope you agree.

If you have any queries don't hesitate to contact us, otherwise we look forward to receiving your club's entry.