



**YEAR END
CONGRESS
2011**

Blackpool Hilton Hotel

**Wednesday 28th to Friday
30th December 2011**

Introduction

Welcome to the Year End Congress in Blackpool and to the Hilton Hotel — we hope you have a most enjoyable congress.

Your Congress host for this event is Aileen Cunningham; please feel free to speak to her at any time in between sessions about non-bridge related matters involving this congress. Jeff Smith is the Appeals Advisors for this event. If you are considering an appeal and would like to discuss it with someone first, ask a tournament director to introduce you to him.

Schedule of play

Wednesday, December 28th

2:00 – 5:30 Mixed & Open Pairs (24–27 boards)
7:45 – 11:00 Swiss Pairs, session 1 (3 x 8-board matches)

Thursday, December 29th

11:30 – 3:45 Swiss Pairs, session 2 (4 x 8-board matches)
4:30 – 7:45 Swiss Pairs, session 3 (3 x 8-board matches)

Friday, December 30th

11:30 – 7:00 Swiss Teams, (7 x 7-board matches)
with short breaks after 2nd and 4th matches
(restart at 1:50 and 4:05 respectively)

Mixed and Open Pairs

These are separate, single session match-pointed pairs competitions. Arrow switches will be used so as to produce a single winner in each competition.

Master-point awards: Local points will be awarded in the National Congress scale i.e. 4 x club level local points: awards to the top one-third of the field.

Prizes: Based on anticipated numbers, then:-

Mixed Pairs: Prizes to 3rd place: 1st £70, 2nd £50, 3rd £40.

Open Pairs: Winners only: 1st £60.

Prizes are quoted in terms of £ per pair.

Swiss Pairs Championship

(for the Stakis Blackpool Trophy)

A three session Swiss Pairs event with current round assignments.

Master Point awards: 0.28 Green Point per match won (0.14 for a draw). Bonus ranking awards to the top quarter of the field. 1st place 6.00 Green Points, last award receiving position 0.50; awards for intermediate places in accordance with the standard EBU competition formula..

Prizes: Prizes are quoted in terms of £ per pair, and will be awarded to 12th place: 1st £200, 2nd £160, 3rd £130, 4th £110, 5th £100, 6th £90, 7th £80, 8th £70, 9th £60, 10th £50, 11th – 12th £40.

Leading two non-expert pairs finishing outside the main prize list:- £40 per pair. A non-expert pair is defined as a pair neither member of which holds the rank of Regional Master or above, based upon points earned (regardless of whether registered or not) on the first day of the event in question. No player presently or previously based overseas for any substantial period of time during their bridge playing career can be eligible within this category, and neither can a player who has represented his/her country at any level (including Under 25 and Under 20 level) in any British, European or World Championship.

Swiss Teams

This is a straightforward one-day Swiss team's event, comprising 7 matches of 7 boards per match.

Master Point awards: 0.25 Green Point per match won (0.13 for a draw). Bonus ranking awards to the top one-fifth of the field. 1st place 4.00 Green Points, last award receiving position 0.25; awards for intermediate places in accordance with the standard EBU competition formula.

Prizes: Prizes are quoted in terms of £ per team, and will be awarded to 5th place: 1st £300, 2nd £220, 3rd £160, 4th £120, 5th £100, 6th £80.

General Conditions

- *Permitted Systems and Conventions:* You are required to have a pair of identical completed convention cards and you should exchange them with your opponents at the start of each round. If you do not have two competed convention cards, you may be provided with an EBU Simple System card and required to play it. WBF convention cards are **only** permitted in EBU Level 5 events. Since all competitions in this event are Level 4 you may not use WBF convention cards.
- *Prizes:* All prizes will be automatically credited to the member's EBU account, and may be redeemed at any time on application to the EBU. The prize values quoted

assume a certain level of entry, and are subject to alteration should the actual entry be significantly different from that originally envisaged. An appropriate announcement would be made before the half-way stage of the tournament in question should this eventuality arise.

- *Issue of Master Points and Ranking Lists:* All Master Points will be awarded by direct credit (please allow at least one month before claiming such points). There is no longer any need to fill out Master Point cards. Ranking lists are available from our web site at www.ebu.co.uk.
- *Split Ties:* a tie for 1st place will be split in accordance with standard EBU procedures solely in order to determine the published winners/trophy winners of a particular tournament. Notwithstanding the above, any tied places share equally any Master Point or prize award which may be due, even if the tie has been split as outlined above.
- *Special circumstances:* General EBU regulations apply in relation to any matter not detailed in these conditions (eg protest time). However, any conditions, whether they be general or specific to this competition as set out in this programme, may be varied upon the special instruction of the Chief Tournament Director in order to accommodate any unforeseen circumstance and in order to facilitate the smooth running of this Congress.
- *Best Behaviour at Bridge:* Please be nice to your partner, be pleasant to your opponents and be polite to the Tournament Directors. Otherwise you may well be given a Disciplinary Penalty!
- *Bridgemates:* North (or South) is responsible for entering the contract & result into the Bridgemate, and East (or West) must be shown it to verify its accuracy by pressing the OK button.

It is best to enter the contract, declarer and lead at the end of the auction – this saves time, reduces the risk of entering the wrong board number, and ensures the lead is fresh in your mind.

Entering the lead accurately not only provides extra information of interest to players, but can also assist the scorer in resolving errors of data-entry.

Bridgemate UK is the EBU's "Official Wireless Scoring Provider".

- *Telephones:* Please switch off your mobile phone. If you must have it on for emergencies, switch it to silent and leave the playing area before answering it.

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