



# The Autumn Congress

18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> October 2019  
The Mercure Hotel, Daventry



## PROGRAMME

# Times of play

## **Friday**

- 2:00pm – 6:00pm **Two Stars Pairs qualifier I**  
Match-pointed Swiss Pairs  
7 x 4-board matches,
- 7:45pm – 11:00pm **Two Stars Pairs qualifier II**  
Match-pointed Swiss Pairs  
6 x 4-board matches,

## **Saturday**

- 11:00am – 2:15pm **Two Stars & Satellite Pairs finals (session 1)**  
Barometer match-pointed pairs  
8 x 3-board rounds
- 11:00am – 2:15pm **Swiss Pairs, session 1**  
Scored by Victory Points  
4 x 6-board matches
- 2:45pm – 7:15pm **Two Stars & Satellite Pairs finals (session 2)**  
Barometer match-pointed pairs  
11 x 3-board rounds with a tea break
- 2:45pm – 7:00pm **Swiss Pairs, session 2**  
Scored by Victory Points  
4 x 6-board matches with a tea break

## **Sunday**

- 11:00am – 2:15pm **Teams-of-Four Championships**  
Qualifying round  
24 boards
- 3:00pm – 6:45pm **Teams-of-Four finals**  
Eastbourne Bowl & Burlington Cup  
27 boards, with a break after 12 boards
- 3:00pm – 6:15pm **Sussex Cup**  
Consolation for non-qualifiers  
24 boards

# Two Stars Pairs Championship

*for the Two Stars Pairs Trophy*

## Qualifying

This event uses a qualifying format that is unique in the EBU, a one-day Swiss Pairs with thirteen four-board matches, scored by match-points (with no conversion to Victory Points). The effect of the scoring method is that every board is of equal value in your overall score.

Approximately 30 tables will play on the Friday, with the top 20 pairs qualifying for the Two Stars Pairs final and the next 20 pairs for the Satellite Pairs final on the Saturday.

Pairs will draw for a starting position from 1:15pm onwards.

Those who do not qualify for either of the finals will normally play in the Swiss Pairs on the Saturday, along with any pairs joining us then rather than playing on the Friday. The Saturday Swiss Pairs will comprise of nine six-board matches, scored in the more traditional manner with match-points converted to Victory Points.

**There will be no carry-forward from Friday into any event on Saturday.**

It is assumed that pairs who fail to qualify for either final will play in the one-day Swiss Pairs event on Saturday – any pair who does not wish to do so should ensure that the tournament director is aware of this. Similarly, any pair who qualifies to play in a final but prefers to play in Saturday's Swiss Pairs must let the tournament directors know as soon as possible after the finish of play on Friday.

## Master point awards

Green Points per four-board match won/drawn: 0.14 for a win (0.07 for a draw). Bonus ranking awards to the top one-eighth of the field:

1st 2.00; last award receiving position 0.25; awards for intermediate places in accordance with the standard EBU congress formula.

Based on an original entry of 56 pairs (28 tables), bonus ranking awards would extend down to 7th place overall.

## **Prizes**

Quoted in terms of £ per pair to the top three places as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> £80, 2<sup>nd</sup> £60, 3<sup>rd</sup> £40.

## **Two Stars final**

Twenty pairs will play an all-play-all final of 19 three-board rounds in a 10-table barometer Howell. Starting positions will be prepared in advance.

### **Master point awards**

Green Points for all 20 pairs: 1<sup>st</sup> 8; 20<sup>th</sup> 2.00; awards for intermediate places in accordance with the standard EBU congress formula.

## **Prizes**

Quoted in terms of £ per pair to 8th place:

1<sup>st</sup> £180, 2<sup>nd</sup> £140, 3<sup>rd</sup> £120, 4<sup>th</sup> £100, 5<sup>th</sup> £80, 6<sup>th</sup> £60, 7<sup>th</sup> £50 8<sup>th</sup> £40.

See also: Special Category Prizes.

## **Satellite Pairs final**

Twenty pairs will play an all-play-all final of 19 three-board rounds in a 10-table barometer Howell. Starting positions will be prepared in advance.

### **Master point awards**

Green Points for all 20 pairs: 1<sup>st</sup> 4.00; 20<sup>th</sup> 1.00; awards for intermediate places in accordance with the standard EBU congress formula.

## **Prizes**

Quoted in terms of £ per pair to 4th place:

1<sup>st</sup> £120, 2<sup>nd</sup> £80, 3<sup>rd</sup> £60, 4<sup>th</sup> £40.

See also: Special Category Prizes.

## **Swiss Pairs Championship**

### ***for the Lewis Levy Cup***

This is a one-day event on Saturday comprising 9 x 6-board matches in all. It is open to all non-qualifiers for the Two Stars or Satellite Pairs finals and to pairs entering the congress at this point. The anticipated total entry to the event is approximately 40 pairs (20 tables).

The event will be played in a single field, with all of the tables being located in the main room.

Pairs will draw for a starting position from the playing area from 10:30am onwards.

### **Master point awards**

Per six-board match won: 0.21 Green Point per win (0.11 for a draw).

Bonus ranking awards (Green Points) to the top one-eighth of the field:

1<sup>st</sup> 2.00; last award receiving position 0.25.

Awards for intermediate places in accordance with the standard EBU congress formula.

Based on an original entry of 40 pairs (20 tables), bonus ranking awards would extend down to 5<sup>th</sup> place overall.

### **Prizes**

Quoted in terms of £ per pair to 3<sup>rd</sup> place as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> £80, 2<sup>nd</sup> £60, 3<sup>rd</sup> £40.

See also: Special Category Prizes.

# Teams Championships

## Qualifying round

Teams will be divided into sections for the qualifying round on Sunday, and starting positions will be published in advance.

**For this purpose, it is essential that all teams enter their names on the list provided beforehand. Having entered the congress in advance is not sufficient in itself for this particular purpose.**

Please enter your team on the notice board by 5:00pm on Saturday evening, writing the name of the team captain first — this is the name which will be used when listing your starting positions. The total expected entry is approximately 30 teams.

Pairs requiring team mates should enter their names on a separate list, which is on display on the notice board. This must be done by 5:00pm on Saturday evening at the latest. If you subsequently manage to make arrangements of your own, please remember to delete your names from the list (again, by 5:00pm Saturday at the latest).

Scoring will be by net IMPs. The leading teams within each section will qualify for the Eastbourne Bowl. The next best placed teams within each section will qualify for the Burlington Cup.

The teams' qualifying ratios will be such as to result in a 10-team final in each event, and will be announced as soon as final figures and section sizes are known. All other teams will qualify for the Sussex Cup.

The qualifying ratios may involve expressions such as the 'best third placed team' in a group. Should this arise, then the term 'best' in this context is defined as the team fewest imps behind the second placed team in their group (likewise, the 'best fifth placed team' are those closest to the fourth placed team in their group). In other words, it is the size of the gap which is important — not the actual score.

## Master point awards

Green Points will be awarded based on rounds won, 0.07 Green per 2-board round won; 0.11 Green per 3-board round won. A draw counts as half-a-win (0.04 and 0.06, respectively).

## Prizes

There are no prizes in respect of the qualifying round, but section winners are guaranteed a prize of at least £60 per team. Any section winner who does not finish in the main prize list in the final will receive a prize of £60; a section winner who does finish in the main prize list will receive the prize relevant to that place, i.e. these particular prizes are not cumulative.

## Starting positions for all finals

Team captains will draw for a team number and starting position on arrival in the playing area (from 2:30pm onwards). **Please understand that the turnaround time between sessions is very tight for the TDs so don't try to register earlier than this.** In the premier and secondary finals, ensure that the TD knows if you need a stationary position for one of your pairs as the movement does not follow standard principles.

## Eastbourne Bowl (Premier Teams final)

Ten teams will play 9 x 3-board matches. Head-to-head matches will be played during the second half of the movement, in order that running scores may be displayed at all times (barometer). Scoring will continue to be by net imps.

## Master point awards

Green Points to all qualifiers: 1<sup>st</sup> 5.00; 10<sup>th</sup> 1.00: awards for intermediate places in accordance with the standard EBU congress formula. Awards for matches won as per the qualifying round.

## Prizes

Quoted in terms of £ per team to the top three teams: 1<sup>st</sup> £180, 2<sup>nd</sup> £120, 3<sup>rd</sup> £80

## **Burlington Cup (Secondary Teams final)**

Ten teams will play 9 x 3-board matches. Head-to-head matches will be played during the second half of the movement, in order that running scores may be displayed at all times (barometer). Scoring will continue to be by net imps.

### **Master point awards**

Green Points to all qualifiers: 1<sup>st</sup> 2.50; 10<sup>th</sup> 0.50; awards for intermediate places in accordance with the standard EBU congress formula.

Awards for matches won as per the qualifying round.

### **Prizes**

Quoted in terms of £ per team to the top two teams: 1<sup>st</sup> £120, 2<sup>nd</sup> £80

## **Sussex Cup**

There will probably be only one section in play, playing 24 boards in total. We envisage that about 10 teams or so will play in the Sussex Cup. Scoring is by net imps. The trophy is awarded to the team with the largest plus score.

### **Master point awards**

Green Points will continue to be awarded based on rounds won – 0.07 Green per 2-board round won and 0.11 Green per 3-board round won. A draw counts as half-a-win

In addition, whether or not there is more than one group, group winners only receive 0.75 Green (or 0.50 Green if playing 3-board rounds) and the Sussex Cup winners receive a further 1.00 Green (thus making a total ranking bonus of 1.75 or 1.50 Green Points, respectively).

### **Prizes**

The overall winners will receive a prize of £80. In addition, should there be more than one section in play, the winners of the second section will receive a prize of £60

## General Notes

### Special category prizes

Prizes of £40 per pair will be awarded in the following categories in the pairs events: **Junior** (both players under 25 years of age) and **Non-expert**.

A non-expert pair is defined as one in which both players are below the rank of Premier Regional Master, this based upon points earned regardless of whether registered or not. Any player presently or previously based overseas for any substantial period of time during his/her bridge-playing career, or any player who has been selected to represent his/her country at any level (including under-25 or under-20 level) is excluded from this category.

One special category prize will be awarded to the leading pair in each category (if any) who reach the Two Stars Pairs final but do not finish in the main prize list in the final. A prize will also be awarded to the leading pair in each category (if any) who reach the Satellite Pairs final but do not finish in the main prize list.

Irrespective of the above, prizes will also be awarded to the leading pairs in each category in the Saturday Swiss Pairs who finish outside of the main Swiss Pairs prize list, providing their score is average or above. One such prize will be available in each category in the Swiss Pairs.

Pairs falling within one or both of these special categories should so indicate on their name slip at whatever stages of the various pair's events these may be issued, using the letters 'J' or 'N' as appropriate.

### System Cards

You are required to have a pair of identical completed EBU 20B system cards and you should exchange them with your opponents at the start of each round.

**If you do not have two completed system cards, you will be provided with blank system cards to fill out before play may continue, receiving a score of average minus for any boards unplayed due to the time lost.**

All events in the congress are EBU level 4 and you may only use EBU system cards – WBF convention cards may not be used.

## **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!

## **Slow Play**

Slow play interferes with the smooth running of events and is discourteous to other players. If you have not started a board when there is less than three minutes left of the round, you may well have the board removed and be awarded an artificial score. Persistent slow players could additionally be given a procedural penalty.

## **Bridgemates**

North (or South) is responsible for entering the contract and result into the Bridgemate, and East (or West) verify the entry by pressing the ACCEPT 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.

Results should be entered before the next board is played, East or West must be allowed to accept the result, and both sides should have the opportunity to review other scores.

**It is an offence to attempt to access the TD screen or change a score in the Bridgemate without calling the TD.**

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

## **Telephones and other electronic devices**

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. You may not text or use any electronic communication device in the playing room.

You may not use electronic cigarettes in any playing areas.

## **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.

## **Special circumstances**

General EBU regulations apply in relation to any matter not detailed in these conditions (e.g. protest time). However, any conditions may be varied by the Chief Tournament Director in order to accommodate any unforeseen circumstance and in order to facilitate the smooth running of this Congress.

## **Tournament Host**

~~David Emerson~~ has been appointed as the Tournament Host for this event. If you need any help in non-bridge-related matters, or wish to discuss any aspect of the tournament, he will be happy to speak to you, and should be available at the start and end of sessions.

## **Appeals Advisor**

~~Paul Hackett~~ is the Appeals Advisor 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.

## **Catering Arrangements**

Sandwiches, snacks, and tea and coffee will be available for lunch on both Saturday and Sunday.

Hotel residents and non-residents alike who intend dining in the hotel on any evening are strongly recommended to book a table in advance with the hotel restaurant, even if you are already booked into the hotel on a half-board basis.

## Player of the Year Championship

The Two Stars Pairs is the first event to count towards our Player of the Year Championship for 2019-20. This title is currently held by Graham Osborne.

Players can gain points based on finishing in the top places of the most prestigious events on the EBU calendar. The player accumulating the most place points in the year (events finishing in the period 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020) will win the prize of £1000.

The events in which points can be scored include knockout competitions and congress tournaments. The full list can be found on our website.



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