



THE ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION

Algarve Congress



A NATIONAL GREEN POINT EVENT

Sponsored by First for Bridge

3rd - 10th February 2025

Vila Galé Tavira, Tavira, Portugal

PROGRAMME

Monday 3			Arrival from UK
	19:45	– 23:00	Pre-congress pairs
Tuesday 4	10:00		Welcome meeting
	14:00	– 17:15	Swiss Pairs session 1 (3 x 8-board matches)
	19:45	– 22:00	Swiss Pairs session 2 (2 x 8-board matches)
Wednesday 5	14:00	– 17:15	Swiss Pairs session 3 (3 x 8-board matches)
	19:45	– 22:00	Swiss Pairs session 4 (2 x 8-board matches)
Thursday 5	09:30		All-day tour to Ria Formosa and Faro
	19:45	– 23:00	Pivot teams (single pivot)
Friday 7	14:30	– 17:45	Open pairs
	19:45	– 23:00	IMP Pairs
Saturday 8	14:30	– 17:45	Swiss Teams session 1 (3 x 8-board matches)
	19:45	– 23:00	Swiss Teams session 2 (3 x 8-board matches)
Sunday 9	13:30	– 15:30	Swiss Teams session 3a (2 x 8-board matches)
	16:00	– 18:00	Swiss Teams session 3b (2 x 8-board matches)
			Sponsored drinks reception and prize-giving.
Monday 10			Departure to UK

A warm welcome to you all, from the English Bridge Union to the Algarve Congress, sponsored by First for Bridge. To help you enjoy your stay you are invited to a welcome meeting at 10:00 am on Tuesday 4th February.

Throughout the event there will posts on the event blog at www.ebu.co.uk/blog . You are invited to contribute interesting hands and stories.

MASTER POINTS

The Swiss events are **Green Pointed**. The other events are **Blue Pointed**

All Master Points will be awarded by direct credit. Ranking lists are available from the web site at <https://www.ebu.co.uk/results/1549>

Stratification

Most events will be stratified.

Stratification levels for individual players:

‘A’: a Premier Life Master or above, or has NGS grade ‘Ace’.

‘B’: a Premier Regional Master or above but not Premier Life Master or above.

‘C’: not a Premier Regional Master or above.

There are exceptions/exemptions, see

<https://www.ebu.co.uk/documents/official-documents/stratification.pdf>.

Stratification levels for pairs:

the higher of the stratification levels of the players.

Stratification levels for teams:

‘A’: at least one of the team are stratification level ‘A’.

‘B’: at least two of the team are ‘B’, and none are ‘A’.

‘C’: at most one of the team is ‘B’, and none are ‘A’.

Master Point awards

Master Point awards for the Swiss Pairs and Swiss Teams are quoted for the overall ‘A’ + ‘B’ + ‘C’ stratification ranking list only. The top award and minimum award on the ‘B’ + ‘C’ list is 50%, and the ‘C’ list is 25% of that quoted for the overall list.

Swiss Pairs

0.28 Green Point per 8-board match won (0.14 for a draw).

Bonus Green Point ranking awards to the top quarter of the field with a top award of 4.50 Green Points and a minimum award of 0.50 Green Point. Intermediate awards in accordance with the standard EBU formula.

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Other events

All other single-session events will be Blue Pointed at National scale. The pairs events will be stratified. The Pivot Teams is not stratified.

PRIZES

Prizes as outlined below will be credited to the player's account and are quoted in terms of £ per pair or £ per team, as appropriate. The actual prize values quoted are based on a certain anticipated entry to each event. Variations may be made should the final entry be other than as expected, in which case an appropriate announcement would be made before the halfway stage of the competition concerned.

Swiss Pairs and Swiss Teams

First prize £180, second prize £80.

Stratified prize £80 – to the highest B/C pair or team not in the top two places.

Pivot Teams

First prize £120.

Pairs events

Open Pairs and IMP Pairs: First prize £80; second prize £40.

Pre-Congress Pairs: First prize £60.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

System Cards

Pairs are required to have two identically completed system cards (EBU 20B), to be exchanged 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 in doing this.

The congress is EBU Level 4, so only EBU system cards are permitted. (WBF cards are only permitted in EBU Level 5 events.)

Format

The programme, and format of the events, can be changed by the Chief Tournament Director if the number of tables makes such changes necessary.

The Pivot Teams is a multiple teams event, in which you will partner any two of your three teammates in turn for approximately twelve boards (i.e. a *partial* pivot rather than a *full* pivot).

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!

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. You may not use any electronic equipment within the playing room.

You may not use electronic cigarettes in the playing room.

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.

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. Please don't read out scores for other players at the table, unless asked – you may be overheard at other tables.

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".



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