



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EBU TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE
HELD AT AYLESBURY OFFICES ON MONDAY 5TH DECEMBER 2005**

Present:	Alan Nelson	Chairman
	Heather Dhondy	Vice-Chairman
	Max Bavin	Chief Tournament Director
	Brian Crack	
	Margaret Curtis	
	Paul Hackett	
	Philip Mason	EBU Vice-Chairman
	John Neville	EBU Treasurer
	Paul Spencer	
	Terry Collier	EBU General Manager
	Nick Doe	Secretary

1. Election of Committee Chairman for the Year 2005/06

Mr Doe welcomed members to the meeting, particularly Messrs Crack and Hackett to their first meeting of the Committee, and called for nominations for Chairman. Mr Nelson was nominated by Mrs Curtis and seconded by Mr Mason. There being no other nominations, Mr Nelson was declared duly elected. He thanked the Committee, and paid tribute to the work of Mr Oliver as a member of the Committee.

2. Election of Committee Vice-Chairman for the Year 2005/06

Mrs Dhondy was proposed by Mr Mason and seconded by Mr Spencer. There being no other nominations, Mrs Dhondy was declared duly elected.

3. Apologies for Absence Addis Page
Denis Robson EBU Chairman

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting (15th September 2005)

4.1 Accuracy

The minutes were agreed to be a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4.2 Matters arising

4.2.1 Possible Seniors Congress in the North (item 2.2.1)

Mr Mason reported that he had made a provisional booking of the Cairn Hotel, Harrogate, for the weekend of 30th June and 1st July 2006, whilst acknowledging that that particular weekend was not necessarily the right weekend on an ongoing basis.

Some reservations were expressed as to the venue (possibly not sufficiently convenient for players from the Home Counties), the date (possibly too close to the Summer Seniors and Veterans in Eastbourne), and the fact that the event was to be introduced without advance notice in the diary. Nevertheless it was decided to run an event as an experiment in 2006 and 2007 (in 2007 it would be on the week prior to the English Riviera Congress, and two weeks before Eastbourne, as those events were in consecutive weeks).

Mr Bavin was asked to propose the detailed format.

4.2.2 Tournament publicity in English Bridge (item 2.2.4)

The Committee noted that its request for copy to be shown to the Committee Chairman in advance had again not been complied with. The Chairman considered that it was more important for the Competitions Department at Aylesbury than for the Chairman to be involved in the process. Mr Neville (who is one of the proof-readers of *English Bridge*) commented that the page containing tournament publicity is invariably one of the last to be prepared.

The Committee agreed that it was desirable for the material for the magazine to be initiated by the Competitions Department at an early stage, and proofed by Mr Bavin.

4.2.3 Afternoon simultaneous pairs (item 2.2.5)

Mr Bavin reported that the planned consultation had now been undertaken by Mrs Gudge, who had reported that the level of interest was minimal. It did appear that many of the afternoon clubs who were interested in running a heat actually currently managed to run an evening heat instead. The Committee acknowledged that there was an argument that afternoon clubs were disenfranchised by the lack of an opportunity to play in sim pairs events, particularly now that Green Points were to be awarded. However, it did not think that it was a practical proposition to run an afternoon event at this stage, particularly as the few clubs which were interested did not all play on the same day of the week. The matter would however be kept under review from time to time. It was agreed that the Chairman should write to one club which had expressed a particular interest.

4.2.4 Possible National Business Houses competition (item 2.2.6)

The Committee noted, with thanks, a report from Mr Page, which had suggested that Business Houses competitions seemed to be in general decline, but that a competition for organisations whose primary purpose was something other than bridge might be contemplated if suitably enthusiastic people could be identified to run local heats. An alternative suggestion from Mr Hackett, for a national competition for the leading teams in the various inter-County Leagues around the country, was noted. However, it was clear that the proposed sponsors wanted a competition that catered specifically for business or professional people, because contact with such people was the way in which they envisaged benefiting from their outlay.

It was agreed that Mr Collier should speak further to the proposed sponsors, and indicate that the Committee was still considering the matter, but envisaged difficulties in devising a competition which it could be confident would attract sufficient entries from the target market.

4.2.5 Summer Seniors and Veterans Congress (item 4.5)

Whilst the matter was not urgent, Mr Bavin apologised that he had not yet been able to pursue the matter of the possible reallocation of trophies.

4.2.6 Master Points (item 6)

The Committee noted that the Board had reversed its earlier decision to discontinue the award of pens, and was pleased to note that the new pens appeared to be of substantially better quality.

The Committee approved three matters of detail proposed by Mr Bavin:-

- the allocation of stars to the new Premier Master rank, for earning further blocks of 5000 Local points;
- the assignment of the Premier Master rank to the bottom category for the purposes of the annual competition; and
- scales devised to implement the decision to award more generous ranking points for One-day Green-pointed events, which would come into effect from 1st January 2006.

Mr Hackett proposed that the annual competition, at least in the top and bottom categories, should be actively promoted as a Master Point race. Whilst acknowledging that interim standings might not be very meaningful due to timing differences for claims, the Committee was generally enthusiastic. Mr Bavin wondered whether the opportunity should be taken to re-think the whole concept of the annual competition. It was agreed to revisit the idea at a future meeting.

The Committee felt that the interim standings in the race (say the top twenty nationally in each of the two categories) should be published in every edition of *English Bridge*, as well as being updated regularly on the EBU website. Whilst the Committee thought that there had been improvements to the magazine, it was convinced what players were interested in was news. It considered that too much of the magazine was currently devoted to teaching. Mr Collier undertook to bring these views to the attention of the Editorial Board.

Correspondence from Mr Roberson, critical of the decision to award Green Points for simultaneous pairs events, was noted. Mr Crack asked whether the Committee was comfortable with awarding Green points, when they might be won by players playing at non-affiliated clubs, as he considered that there was some potential for abuse. He also considered it undesirable as it created conditions which reduced the incentive for clubs to affiliate. A number of Committee members expressed surprise that non-affiliated clubs were permitted to run heats of EBU sim pairs, but Mr Bavin confirmed that there appeared to be nothing in the regulations to prevent them. Doubt was also expressed that significant numbers of unaffiliated clubs would be likely to want to run sim pairs heats. This was because sim pairs are widely regarded as attracting people because of the Master Point awards, and members of unaffiliated clubs, which do not award Master Points for other events, are unlikely to be motivated by Master Points. It was agreed to ascertain the number of non-affiliated clubs participating, as there seemed no need for action if the number turned out to be small.

4.2.7 Overseas Congress – 2006 and 2007 (item 9.1)

The Committee noted that dates and venue had been finalised for Autumn 2006, when the Congress is to be held in Cesme, Turkey. Some bookings had already been received. The Committee was pleased to note bookings already approaching 200 for Luxor in February 2006.

Mr Collier advised the Committee that the long term plan was to look for destinations further afield in February, when it was more difficult to find destinations within Europe which were satisfactory in all respects (particularly climate), but to remain within Europe or close by in September. This was as a result of feedback from the Tunisia Congress, which had identified a market for destinations further afield. The Committee wished to know whether it or the Board was responsible for policy in relation to the selection of venues, and Mr Collier confirmed that the Committee was.

Considerable doubts were expressed as to the wisdom of holding Congresses in long haul destinations, not least because of the need to have bridge equipment out of the country for extended periods. The Committee felt that it was desirable to limit venues to the general area of Europe.

Mr Collier reminded the Committee that for financial reasons it was necessary to limit destinations to places to which it was relatively difficult to get without use of the sponsor's travel package, but that the Board was not prepared to contemplate further use of a destination (such as Madeira) where the package could only be provided by chartering a plane specially.

Mr Collier informed the Committee of an offer from "Mr Bridge" of a cruise-based Congress in September 2007. The Committee regretted that it did not think that the EBU could possibly

contemplate a commitment to achieve a minimum of 450 participants, which was a condition of the proposal going ahead.

4.2.8 *Brighton Summer Congress (item 4.10)*

Mr Hackett proposed a change to the format, which he considered had significant potential to attract players from overseas, and to persuade domestic players who did not currently do so to stay for the midweek events. This was to play a knock-out teams event of 64-board matches throughout in place of the current midweek knock-out, which has 32-board matches. Each match would be completed in one day, and if necessary (depending on numbers) there should be a facility for the teams involved in the latter stages to drop in to the Swiss Teams with a suitable carry-over score. It would be appropriate to give realistic Green point awards, starting at, say, 3 for winning a first round match.

The Committee agreed to introduce the change with effect from 2007.

5. **Tournament Accounts**

The Committee noted the results covering the period July to October, which were good, apart from Brighton and Guernsey, the numbers for both of which had been down.

6. **Tournament Reports**

6.1 **Isle of Man Congress**

There had been an average of 20 tables in play, which was normal. The event was now to be taken over by the Manx Bridge Union, and the Committee wished them well. It was agreed to waive the normal licence fee for the first year of the new arrangement.

6.2 **Autumn Simultaneous Pairs**

There had been 2043 tables at 226 clubs in play over the two days. This was approximately 7% down which was a disappointment, as it had been hoped that with the transfer to organisation by Ecatsbridge, an increase in numbers might have been possible.

6.3 **Guernsey Congress and Seniors Congress**

There had been 32 tables in play in the Pairs and only 26 in the Teams (the latter was significantly down), with an average of 18 in the Seniors (approximately unchanged).

6.4 **One-day events (September)**

The number of tables in play has been as follows:-

Saturday		all Swiss Pairs
Avon	31	
Derbyshire	41	
Surrey	101	
Sunday		all Swiss Teams
Cornwall	29	
Hertfordshire	70	
Leicestershire	35	
Surrey	105	flighted: 80 A, 25 B

Whilst Surrey were to be congratulated on continuing to attract a large entry, it was noticeable that the very large numbers of the previous year had not been sustained, presumably because Hertfordshire also had an event, which, fortuitously, had not happened the previous year.

6.5 Great Northern Swiss Pairs

There had been 73 tables in play, which was normal. There had been some problems with catering because of refurbishment of the venue, and there had been some criticism of the timings from those who did not wish to eat at the venue.

6.6 NICKO final

This had been played privately and won by New Amersham Bridge Club.

6.7 Crockfords Plate final

This had been played at the Reading Bridge Club and won by David Newstead's team.

6.8 Autumn Congress

An average of 93 tables had been in play, which was slightly up. Some dissatisfaction with the catering arrangements had been anticipated, but in the event there had been no complaints.

The Committee considered a suggestion that carry-over scores be introduced in the three-stage Two Stars Pairs, but preferred to keep the status quo.

6.9 Seniors Congress

An average of 104 tables had been in play, which was slightly up. The hotel had generally done a good job. The Committee noted that significant numbers of players seem to arrive early and would welcome the availability of food before play, and Mr Bavin was asked to put appropriate arrangements in place with the hotel for next year.

6.10 Tollemache Cup Qualifier

This, the first EBU event to be played at the Kettering Conference Centre, had generally gone very well, despite problems with the new scoring software. 38 Counties (including two Welsh Districts) had been represented.

Mr Bavin explained that the original intention had been to have Bridgemates (table-top terminals to transmit results to the scoring computer) at the Tollemache, but this had not happened as there had been insufficient time to develop the necessary scoring software. The scoring software which had been used had been developed by Chris Dixon, but was currently insufficiently user-friendly to allow operation by anyone else. The amount of time required to deal with scoring queries had been underestimated, and as a result scores had not been available quickly enough. On the other hand the amount of data captured by the system was impressive, which had enabled very detailed results to be posted on the EBU website.

The Committee noted that a decision had to be made as to whether the EBU wanted further development of Mr Dixon's scoring software, or whether it would be better to opt for a different package. Scorebridge, which was already compatible with Bridgemates, or the software with which Bridgemates were supplied, were both options. Progress needed to be made quickly, as Bridgemate terminals had now been ordered and would be available in February.

The Committee was delighted that Bridgemates were to be brought into use, but did not feel that it had the information before it to allow it to make a recommendation to the Board as to the preferred software option. It trusted that appropriate scoring systems would be acquired or developed, and felt that EBU members were entitled to expect that scoring of EBU events would be the best in the world.

It was agreed that Messrs Bavin and Collier would progress matters with regard to scoring software.

The Committee considered the feedback which had been received on the new venue. The playing conditions were generally thought to be good. The main playing area had been full at 78 tables, but approximately another 20 could be accommodated in other rooms. The Committee was concerned at the complaints which had been received about the surcharge for the constant availability of tea and coffee, although it recognised that the quality had been good and the system much easier to operate than the traditional one. **In response to a question from Mr Crack, Mr Neville confirmed that the decision to approve the imposition of a surcharge for tea and coffee had**

been the Board's. Mr Crack suggested that in the light of the concerns expressed by some Counties and a number of individual members, the Board should reconsider its decision.

Some concern was expressed as to the ability of the venue to cope with catering numbers in the event that a staggered dinner break was not possible, although it was noted that the venue was confident that it could have coped. This was important in view of the lack of suitable alternative places to eat in the vicinity. Accommodation remained a concern – it appeared that the hotels used by the players had been very variable in location, price and value for money.

The conclusion was that the venue was very good for an intensive bridge event, but unlikely to be attractive for events which traditionally involved a more social element. Mr Collier confirmed that the Board would carefully consider all the feedback. It was unlikely to make any decision on the long-term use of the venue until a firm decision had been made as to the construction of hotel accommodation on site, as to which an application was currently before the planning authority.

6.11 NICKO Plate final

This had been played at the West Midlands Bridge Club and won by Welwyn Garden City Bridge Club.

7. Terms of reference and future meetings

7.1 Terms of reference

The Committee noted that the Board was minded to introduce formal terms of reference for the two Standing Committees which currently lacked them, and had asked the Committees to consider and comment on matters which should be addressed in drafting them. The Committee felt that it should see a draft before discussing the matter, so it was agreed to consider the matter at the next meeting.

7.2 Dates and venues of future meetings

The Chairman suggested that the Committee might find it appropriate to reduce the number of meetings to three a year, which would coincide neatly with the current timetable for shareholders meetings. A suggestion that there be three "routine" meetings to deal with normal detailed business, with an extra one to address more general issues, attracted considerable support. Mr Crack said that a criticism that had been levelled at the EBU was that it lacked "joined-up government", and he felt that it was for the Board to give a strategic lead. This might help the Committee decide how many meetings were required.

It was eventually agreed to fix the next meeting, and decide the future timetable of meetings then. The next meeting was fixed for Monday 27th February at 12.30 pm at 40 Bernard Street, London WC1.

The Chairman said that he hoped to be able to hold one meeting a year at a major EBU Congress, preferably Brighton. It was agreed to discuss this idea further at the next meeting, but it might not be practicable to organise a meeting at Brighton next year, not least because some Committee members might expect to be absent at the European Championships.

8. One-day Green-pointed events and Green-pointed County Congresses

8.1 Financial structure

Mr Doe drew the Committee's attention to a number of queries raised by Counties about the detail of the trial financial structure for 2007 and 2008. The Committee decided that:-

- prize structure was a matter for the organising County or Counties: in particular there would be no requirement to return 20% of entry fees as prizes; and
- Counties should be free to make their own TD appointments which would not be limited to EBU Panel TDs (the Committee would exercise a supervisory role, in the event of complaints about

the standards of tournament direction; and the assistance of Aylesbury office in finding TDs would be offered to any Counties which needed it).

8.2 Applications for 2007

8.3 Applications for 2008

The Committee noted details of applications for 2007 and 2008, and approved a suggestion from Mr Mason that a draft schedule should be constructed by the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary in consultation, and appended to the minutes. Other Committee members were welcome to make known to Mr Doe any views which they considered ought to be taken into account.

[Secretary's note – the draft schedule for 2007 is Appendix A; that for 2008 is Appendix B.]

9. Entry fees for season 2006/07

Mr Bavin reported that he had produced proposals in consultation with the Chairman and the Treasurer, which allowed for an increase of approximately 3%. He confirmed that the fees for events to be held at Kettering assumed continuance of the inclusive charge for tea and coffee. It was agreed that the detailed proposals would be circulated to Committee members with these minutes. They would be asked to submit comments within a relatively short space of time, with a view to finalisation of the proposals in advance of the next meeting.

10. Calendars

10.1 2006/07

10.2 2007/08

10.3 2008/09

A final draft for 2006/07, a third draft for 2007/08 and a first draft for 2008/09 were noted. Mr Doe was asked to make any amendments arising out of decisions made at this meeting and append the drafts to the minutes. Comments from Committee members were of course welcome in the usual way.

[Secretary's note – the drafts are Appendices C (2006/07), D (2007/08) and E (2008/09).]

11. Miscellaneous correspondence

11.1 Standards of behaviour in EBU Tournaments

The Committee considered correspondence from Mr Pryor arising from an incident at a One-day event. The letter did not seek to complain about specific opponents (which would have been a matter for the Laws & Ethics Committee), but suggested that the prevalence of bad behaviour acted as a deterrent to players entering EBU competitions, and proposed the introduction of a Zero Tolerance policy as a solution. The Committee considered that the question of Zero Tolerance policies was a matter for the Board. Mr Doe was asked to draft a response for approval by the Chairman to the effect that the Committee in no way approves of bad behaviour by players, but was satisfied that the TD had handled the matter appropriately.

11.2 Master Points

The Committee considered correspondence from Mr Gardner making various suggestions. It did not think that it was appropriate to make changes to the arrangements for issue of fractional Green points in Multiple Teams events, and in particular it did not wish to depart from the rule that the minimum unit in which Green points are awarded is one-quarter. It did not consider that awards should be made on a stanza by stanza basis in Knock-out Teams events, as there was considerable potential for abuse. Suggestions for reform to the ranking Green Points in One-day events had already been implemented in part. Mr Doe was asked to send a suitable response.

Mr Gardner had also commented on draw policy. Mr Hackett expressed the view that it was unhelpful if the closing date for rounds of different events coincided, and the Committee agreed that this should be avoided wherever possible.

12. Any other business

12.1 Data Protection and access to contact details

Mr Doe gave Committee members details of the contact details held for them on the EBU membership database, and sought approval for them to be combined into a directory for circulation to fellow Committee members, which was given.

12.2 Gerard Faulkner Salver – possible seeding

The Committee agreed to a request from the Selection Committee to introduce a measure of seeding for the Gerard Faulkner Salver (which is used by the Selection Committee as a trial for international Seniors events). Four teams would be seeded for the 2006/07 event. The Committee was happy for the detailed method of seeding to be decided by the Selection Committee.

12.3 Master Points – Mind Sports Olympiad

The Committee noted that its agreement for the issue of Green Points had only covered the 2004 and 2005 events. It understood that the future of the event was in some doubt, but if it were to continue, the organisers would be expected to make a further application to the Committee if they wished to continue to award Green Points.

12.4 National Newcomers Pairs

Mrs Curtis expressed the hope that comprehensive publicity material would be available very early in the New Year.

12.5 Competition draws

Mr Hackett asked that the Competitions Department ensure that details of captains' email addresses were included on draw slips whenever such information was available.

12.6 Deep Finesse

Mr Bavin asked for approval for information from a double dummy analysis to be included experimentally on hand records at a number of EBU events, and provided a sample of the format. Approval was given.

12.7 Publication of minutes on website

The Committee noted the Board's decision to publish minutes as "awaiting approval" until the minutes were approved at the subsequent meeting. It was happy to follow suit.

Revised draft schedule for 2007 One-day events

March (4 Sat, 6 Sun)

Double-headers

Avon with Wiltshire
Leicestershire
Manchester with Merseyside

Other events

Saturday

London

Sunday

Bedfordshire
Channel Islands
Kent

May (4 Sat, 5 Sun)

Double-headers

Lancashire with Merseyside
Norfolk with Suffolk

Other events

Saturday

Northants
Sussex

Sunday

Bedfordshire
Hampshire & IOW
Warwickshire

June (1 Sat, 5 Sun)

Double-headers

Gloucestershire with Herefordshire

Other events

Saturday

None

Sunday

Berks & Bucks
Dorset
Kent
Lincolnshire

July (3 Sat, 5 Sun)

Double-headers

Essex with Hertfordshire
Lancashire with Manchester
Nottinghamshire

Other events

Saturday

None

Sunday

Devon
Sussex

September (3 Sat, 5 Sun)

Double-headers

Derbyshire
Surrey

Other events

Saturday

Oxfordshire

Sunday

Avon
Cornwall
Hertfordshire

All Counties have been accommodated with the following exceptions:-

- One event refused (second event allocated on first choice date)
- One third choice date allocated (second event allocated on first choice date)
- One second choice allocated (second event allocated on first choice date)
- One event allocated on Saturday rather than Sunday of first choice weekend (second event allocated on first choice date)

Draft schedule for 2008 One-day events

March (4 Sat, 5 Sun)

Double-headers

Avon with Wiltshire
Leicestershire
London
Manchester with Merseyside

Other events

Saturday

None

Sunday

Channel Islands

May (3 Sat, 5 Sun)

Double-headers

Lancashire with Merseyside

Other events

Saturday

Northants
Sussex

Sunday

Bedfordshire
Hampshire & IOW
Kent
Warwickshire

June (1 Sat, 5 Sun)

Double-headers

Gloucestershire with Herefordshire

Other events

Saturday

None

Sunday

Bedfordshire
Dorset
Kent
Lincolnshire

July (3 Sat, 6 Sun)

Double-headers

Essex with Hertfordshire
Lancashire with Manchester
Nottinghamshire

Other events

Saturday

None

Sunday

Cumbria
Devon
Sussex

September (3 Sat, 5 Sun)

Double-headers

Derbyshire
Surrey

Other events

Saturday

Oxfordshire

Sunday

Avon
Cornwall
Hertfordshire

All Counties have been accommodated with the following exceptions:-

- One County allocated two second choice dates
- One second choice allocated (second event allocated on first choice date)
- One event allocated on Saturday rather than Sunday of first choice weekend (second event allocated on first choice date)



EXTRACT FROM EBU DRAFT CALENDAR OF EVENTS



**Season 2006/07 – Official final draft approved by
Tournament Committee on 5th December 2005**

Note – Events are marked in two ways to indicate significant changes from the last draft approved by the Committee:-

A double black bar to the right of the venue column indicates a change of venue.

A double black bar to the left of the details column indicates a change of date or other details.

2006

<u>Jul</u>	29	-	8	Aug		World Youth Team Championships		Bangkok
<u>Aug</u>	11	-	20			Brighton Summer Congress		Brighton
	12	-	26			European Teams Championships		Warsaw
<u>Sep</u>	1	-	3			Junior Teach-in		Loughborough
	2	-	3			Possible Open Trials (1 of 4)		TBA
	2	-	3			Bedford Congress		Cranfield
	8	-	10			Isle of Man Congress		Isle of Man
	9	-	10			Possible Open Trials (2 of 4)		TBA
	18	-	19			EBU Autumn Sim Pairs		Clubs
	22	-	1	Oct		Guernsey Congress and Seniors Congress		Guernsey
	30	-				One-day events		Derbyshire, Oxfordshire, Surrey
	30	-	1	Oct		Possible Open Trials (3 of 4)		TBA
<u>Oct</u>	1	-				One-day events		Avon, Cornwall, Derbyshire, Hertfordshire, Surrey
	6	-	8			West of England Congress		Weston-super-Mare
	6	-	10			EBU Autumn Overseas Congress		Cesme, Turkey
	7	-	8			Great Northern Swiss Pairs		Warrington
	7	-	8			Women's Trials Stage I		Kettering
	11	-	12			BGB Autumn Sim Pairs		Clubs
	14	-	15			Possible Open Trials (4 of 4)		TBA
	20	-	22			Autumn Congress		Bournemouth
	28	-	29			Lederer Memorial Trophy		London
	28	-	29			Malvern Congress		Bransford
<u>Nov</u>	3	-	5			Seniors Congress		Daventry
	3	-	5			NEBA Congress		Allensford
	11	-	12			Women's Trials Stage II		Kettering
	18	-	19			Middlesex Congress		Harrow
	23	-	3	Dec		(American Fall Nationals)		Hawaii
	25	-	26			Tollemache Qualifier		Kettering
	27	-				European Internet Sim Pairs		Clubs
	29	-				European Internet Sim Pairs		Clubs
<u>Dec</u>	9	-	10			Gold Cup Finals		Peebles
	15	-	17			Junior Channel Trophy		France
	27	-	30			Year-End Congress		London
	28	-	30			Year-End Congress		Blackpool
<u>2007</u>								
<u>Jan</u>	5	-	7			Midland Counties Congress		Bewdley
	5	-	7			Camrose - first weekend		England (TBA)
	8	-	10			BGB Winter Sim Pairs		Clubs
	12	-	14			EBU Online Players Congress		Hinckley
	20	-	21			National Swiss Teams		Kettering
	27	-	28			National Women's and Men's Pairs		Kettering
<u>Feb</u>	1	-	6			EBU Overseas Congress (provisional)		TBA
	10	-	11			Tollemache Cup Final		Kettering
	11	-				G.W. Arnott-Davidson Trophy Qualifier		London, Sheffield
	16	-	18			National Women's Teams		TBA
	17	-	18			Junior Camrose weekend		Republic of Ireland
	23	-	25			Spring Congress		Harrogate

Feb	24		Golfprint Regional Finals	Various
Mar	2 - 4		Camrose - final weekend	Scotland
	3 - 4		Ranked Masters Pairs	Kettering
	8 - 18		(American Spring Nationals)	St Louis
	10		One-day events	Avon / Wiltshire, Leicestershire, London, Manchester / Merseyside
	11		One-day events	Avon / Wiltshire, Leicestershire, Bedfordshire, Channel Islands, Kent, Manchester / Merseyside
	16 - 18		Cumbria Congress	Bassenthwaite
	17		Young Bridge Challenge (inc Schools Cup)	Loughborough
	18		Portland Pairs	Various
	23 - 25		Cornwall Congress	Newquay
	24		Golfprint National Final	Kettering
	25		National Newcomers Pairs	Counties
	25		National Pairs Regional Finals	Bradford, Bristol, Kettering, Leatherhead, Solihull
	25 - 26		Isle of Man Congress	Isle of Man
	30		Lords v Commons (provisional)	London
Apr	6		G.W. Arnott-Davidson Trophy Final	London
	6 - 7		Under-25 Pairs	London
	6 - 8		Easter Festival	Blackpool
	6 - 9		Easter Festival	London
	7		Under-19 Pairs Final	London
	11 - 13		BGB Spring Sim Pairs	Clubs
	13 - 15		Norfolk Congress	King's Lynn
	13 - 15		Lady Milne Trophy	Wales
	13 - 15		Devon County Congress	Torquay
	21 - 22		National Pairs Final	Kettering
	27 - 29		Cheltenham Congress	Cheltenham
	27 - 6	May	Lambourne Festival and Seniors Congress	Jersey
	28 - 29		Telford Congress	Shrewsbury
	28 - 29		Portland Bowl Finals	London
May	4 - 8		Schapiro Spring Foursomes	Stratford
	9 - 10		EBU Spring Sim Pairs	Clubs
	12		One-day events	Lancashire / Merseyside, Norfolk / Suffolk, Northants, Sussex
	12 - 13		Crockfords Cup Final	Kettering
	13		One-day events	Bedfordshire, Hampshire, Lancashire / Merseyside, Norfolk / Suffolk, Warwickshire
	19		Garden Cities Regional Finals	Bradford, Bristol, Kettering, Richmond
	26 - 28		Spring Bank Holiday Congress	Bournemouth
Jun	1 - 2		Worldwide Sim Pairs	Clubs
	1 - 3		Yorkshire Congress	Harrogate
	2 - 3		Corwen Trophy	Kettering
	9 - 10		Pachabo Cup	Kettering
	16		One-day event	Gloucestershire / Herefordshire
	16 - 30		European Open Championships (Pairs and Teams)	Stavanger (Norway)
	17		One-day events	Berks & Bucks, Dorset, Gloucestershire / Herefordshire, Kent, Lincolnshire
	22 - 24		Northern Seniors Congress	Harrogate
	23		Garden Cities National Final	Kettering
	23 - 24		Oxfordshire Congress	Benson
	29 - 1	Jul	English Riviera Congress	Torquay
Jul	6 - 8		Summer Seniors and Veterans Congress	Eastbourne
	9 - 19		European Youth Championships (assumed dates)	TBA
	14 - 15		Open Trials Stage I (Pre-qualifying)	Kettering
	19 - 29		(American Summer Nationals)	Nashville
	21		One-day events	Essex / Hertfordshire, Lancashire / Manchester, Nottinghamshire
	22		One-day events	Devon, Essex / Hertfordshire, Lancashire / Manchester, Nottinghamshire, Sussex
	25 - 27		World Junior Individual	Nashville

<u>Jul</u>	26	-	29		Northern Summer Congress	Scarborough
	28	-	4	Aug	World Junior Camp	TBA
	30	-	31		BGB Summer Sim Pairs	Clubs
<u>Aug</u>	10	-	19		Brighton Summer Congress	Brighton
	31	-	2	Sep	Junior Teach-in	Loughborough



EXTRACT FROM EBU DRAFT CALENDAR OF EVENTS



**Season 2007/08 – Official third draft approved by
Tournament Committee on 5th December 2005**

Note – Events are marked in two ways to indicate significant changes from the last draft approved by the Committee:-

A double black bar to the right of the venue column indicates a change of venue.

A double black bar to the left of the details column indicates a change of date or other details.

2007

<u>Jul</u>	28 - 4	Aug	World Junior Camp	TBA
<u>Aug</u>	10 - 19		Brighton Summer Congress	Brighton
	31 - 2	Sep	Junior Teach-in	Loughborough
<u>Sep</u>	1 - 2		Open Trials Stage IIA	Kettering
	1 - 2		Bedford Congress	Cranfield
	8 - 9		Women's Trials Stage IA	Kettering
	14 - 16		Isle of Man Congress	Isle of Man
	15 - 16		Open Trials Stage IIB	Kettering
	17 - 18		EBU Autumn Sim Pairs	Clubs
	21 - 30		Guernsey Congress and Seniors Congress	Guernsey
	22 - 23		Women's Trials Stage IB	Kettering
	29		One-day events	Derbyshire, Oxfordshire, Surrey
	30		One-day events	Avon, Cornwall, Derbyshire, Hertfordshire, Surrey
<u>Oct</u>	5 - 7		West of England Congress	Weston-super-Mare
	6 - 7		Open Trials Stage IIIA	Kettering
	6 - 7		Great Northern Swiss Pairs	Warrington
	10 - 11		BGB Autumn Sim Pairs	Clubs
	13 - 14		Lederer Memorial Trophy (provisional)	London
	19 - 21		Autumn Congress	Bournemouth
	20 - 3	Nov	World Championships (Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup) (assumed dates)	TBA
	27 - 28		Malvern Congress	Bransford
<u>Nov</u>	2 - 4		Seniors Congress	Daventry
	9 - 11		NEBA Congress	Allensford
	10 - 11		Open Trials Stage IIIB	Kettering
	17 - 18		Women's Trials Stage IIA	Kettering
	17 - 18		Middlesex Congress	Harrow
	22 - 2	Dec	(American Fall Nationals)	San Francisco
	24 - 25		Tollemache Cup Qualifier	Kettering
	26		European Internet Sim Pairs	Clubs
	28		European Internet Sim Pairs	Clubs
<u>Dec</u>	8 - 9		Gold Cup Finals (assumed dates)	Peebles
	21 - 23		Junior Channel Trophy	Netherlands
	27 - 30		Year-End Congress	London
	28 - 30		Year-End Congress	Blackpool
<u>2008</u>				
<u>Jan</u>	4 - 6		Midland Counties Congress	Bewdley
	5 - 6		Open Trials Stage IVA (semi-finals)	Kettering
	5 - 6		Women's Trials Stage IIB	Kettering
	7 - 9		BGB Winter Sim Pairs	Clubs
	11 - 13		Camrose - first weekend	Northern Ireland
	11 - 13		EBU Online Players Congress	Hinckley
	19 - 20		National Swiss Teams	Kettering
	26 - 27		National Women's and Men's Pairs	Kettering
<u>Feb</u>	3 - 9		EBU Overseas Congress (provisional)	TBA
	9 - 10		Tollemache Cup Final	Kettering
	10		G.W. Arnott-Davidson Trophy Qualifier	London, Sheffield

Feb	15 - 17	National Women's Teams	TBA	
	16 - 17	Junior Camrose Weekend	England	
	22 - 24	Spring Congress	Harrogate	
	23	Golfprint Regional Finals	Various	
Mar	23 - 24	Open Trials Stage IVB (final) (default date)	TBA	
	1 - 2	Ranked Masters Pairs	Kettering	
	6 - 16	(American Spring Nationals)	Detroit	
	7 - 9	Camrose - final weekend	Republic of Ireland	
	8	One-day events	Avon / Wiltshire, Leicestershire, London, Manchester / Merseyside	
	9	One-day events	Avon / Wiltshire, Channel Islands, Leicestershire, London, Manchester / Merseyside	
	14	Lords v Commons (provisional)	London	
	14 - 16	Cumbria Congress	Bassenthwaite	
	15	Young Bridge Challenge (inc Schools Cup)	Loughborough	
	16	National Newcomers Pairs	Counties	
	16	National Pairs Regional Finals	Bradford, Bristol, Kettering, Leatherhead, Solihull	
	21	G.W. Arnott-Davidson Trophy Final	London	
	21 - 22	Under-25 Pairs	London	
	21 - 23	Easter Festival	Blackpool	
	21 - 24	Easter Festival	London	
22	Under-19 Pairs Final	London		
28 - 30	Cornwall Congress	Newquay		
29	Golfprint National Final	Kettering		
30	Portland Pairs	Various		
Apr	30 - 31	Isle of Man Congress	Isle of Man	
	9 - 11	BGB Spring Sim Pairs	Clubs	
	11 - 13	Lady Milne Trophy	Scotland	
	11 - 13	Norfolk Congress	Kings Lynn	
	11 - 13	Devon County Congress	Torquay	
	19 - 20	National Pairs Final	Kettering	
	25 - 4 May	Lambourne Festival and Seniors Congress	Jersey	
	26 - 27	Telford Congress	Shrewsbury	
	26 - 27	Portland Bowl Finals	London	
	May	2 - 4	Cheltenham Congress	Cheltenham
		2 - 6	Schapiro Spring Foursomes	Stratford
10		One-day events	Lancashire / Merseyside, Northants, Sussex	
10 - 11		Crockfords Final	Kettering	
11		One-day events	Bedfordshire, Hampshire, Kent, Lancashire / Merseyside, Warwickshire	
14 - 15		EBU Spring Sim Pairs	Clubs	
17		Garden Cities Regional Finals	Bradford, Bristol, Kettering, Richmond	
24 - 26		Spring Bank Holiday Congress	Bournemouth	
Jun		6 - 7	Worldwide Sim Pairs	Clubs
		6 - 8	Yorkshire Congress	Harrogate
	7 - 8	Corwen Trophy	Kettering	
	14 - 15	Pachabo Cup	Kettering	
	21	Garden Cities National Final	Kettering	
	21	One-day event	Gloucestershire / Herefordshire	
	21 - 5 Jul	European Teams Championships (assumed dates)	TBA	
	22	One-day events	Bedfordshire, Dorset, Gloucestershire / Herefordshire, Kent, Lincolnshire	
Jul	27 - 29	English Riviera Congress	Torquay	
	28 - 29	Oxfordshire Congress	Benson	
	4 - 6	Summer Seniors and Veterans Congress	Eastbourne	
	10 - 20	(American Summer Nationals)	Las Vegas	
	19	One-day events	Essex / Hertfordshire, Lancashire / Manchester, Nottinghamshire	
	20	One-day events	Cumbria, Devon, Essex / Hertfordshire, Lancashire / Manchester, Nottinghamshire,	

	24	-	27	Northern Summer Congress	Sussex
	28	-	29	BGB Summer Sim Pairs	Scarborough
Aug	8	-	17	Brighton Summer Congress	Clubs
	30	-	31	Bedford Congress	Brighton
					Cranfield



EXTRACT FROM EBU DRAFT CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Season 2008/09 – Official first draft approved by Tournament Committee on 5th December 2005

<u>2008</u>			
<u>Aug</u>	8 - 17	Brighton Summer Congress	Brighton
	30 - 31	Bedford Congress	Cranfield
<u>Sep</u>	5 - 7	Junior Teach-in	Loughborough
	6 - 7	Possible Open Trials (1 of 4)	TBA
	13 - 14	Possible Open Trials (2 of 4)	TBA
	15 - 16	EBU Autumn Sim Pairs	Clubs
	19 - 28	Guernsey Congress and Seniors Congress	Guernsey
	20 - 21	Women's Trials Stage I	Kettering
	27	One-day events	Derbyshire, Oxfordshire, Surrey
	28	One-day events	Avon, Cornwall, Derbyshire, Hertfordshire, Surrey
<u>Oct</u>	3 - 5	West of England Congress	Weston-super-Mare
	4 - 5	Possible Open Trials (3 of 4)	TBA
	4 - 5	Great Northern Swiss Pairs	Warrington
	8 - 9	BGB Autumn Sim Pairs	Clubs
	11 - 12	Lederer Memorial Trophy (provisional)	London
	17 - 19	Autumn Congress	Bournemouth
	18 - 1 Nov	World Teams Olympiad (assumed dates)	TBA
	25 - 26	Malvern Congress	Bransford
<u>Nov</u>	7 - 9	Seniors Congress	Daventry
	7 - 9	NEBA Congress	Allensford
	8 - 9	Women's Trials Stage II	Kettering
	15 - 16	Middlesex Congress	Harrow
	15 - 16	Possible Open Trials (4 of 4)	TBA
	20 - 30	(American Fall Nationals)	Boston
	24	European Sim Pairs	Clubs
	26	European Sim Pairs	Clubs
	29 - 30	Tollemache Qualifier	Kettering
<u>Dec</u>	13 - 14	Gold Cup Finals (assumed dates)	Peebles
	19 - 21	Junior Channel Trophy	Belgium
	27 - 30	Year-End Congress	London
	28 - 30	Year-End Congress	Blackpool
<u>2009</u>			
<u>Jan</u>	2 - 4	Midland Counties Congress	Bewdley
	9 - 11	Camrose - first weekend	Wales
	9 - 11	EBU Online Players Congress	Hinckley
	12 - 14	BGB Winter Sim Pairs	Clubs
	17 - 18	National Swiss Teams	Kettering
	24 - 25	National Women's and Men's Pairs	Kettering
<u>Feb</u>	14 - 15	Tollemache Final	Kettering
	15	G.W. Arnott-Davidson Trophy Qualifier	London, Sheffield
	20 - 22	National Women's Teams	
	21 - 22	Junior Camrose weekend	Northern Ireland
	27 - 1 Mar	Spring Congress	Harrogate
	28	Golfprint Regional Finals	Various
<u>Mar</u>	6 - 8	Camrose - final weekend	England
	7 - 8	Ranked Masters Pairs	Kettering
	12 - 22	(American Spring Nationals)	Houston
	14	Young Bridge Challenge (inc Schools Cup)	Loughborough
	14	One-day events	Various
	15	One-day events	Various

Mar	20 - 22	Cumbria Congress	Bassenthwaite
	22	National Newcomers Pairs	Counties
	22	National Pairs Regional Finals	Bradford, Bristol, Kettering, Leatherhead, Solihull
	27 - 29	Cornwall Congress	Newquay
	28	Golfprint National Final	Kettering
	29	Portland Pairs	Various
	29 - 30	Isle of Man Congress	Isle of Man
Apr	3	Lords v Commons (default date)	London
	3 - 5	Norfolk Congress	Kings Lynn
	10	G.W. Arnott-Davidson Trophy Final	London
	10 - 11	Under-25 Pairs	London
	10 - 12	Easter Festival	Blackpool
	10 - 13	Easter Festival	London
	11	Under-19 Pairs Final	London
	15 - 17	BGB Spring Sim Pairs	Clubs
	17 - 19	Lady Milne Trophy	Republic of Ireland
	17 - 19	Devon County Congress	Torquay
	18 - 19	Portland Bowl Finals	London
	24 - 3	May Lambourne Festival	Jersey
	25 - 26	National Pairs Final	Kettering
	25 - 26	Telford Congress	Shrewsbury
May	1 - 3	Cheltenham Congress	Cheltenham
	1 - 5	Schapiro Spring Foursomes	Stratford-upon-Avon
	9 - 10	Crockfords Final	Kettering
	13 - 14	EBU Spring Sim Pairs	Clubs
	16	Garden Cities Regional Finals	Bradford, Bristol, Kettering, Richmond
	16	One-day events	Various
	17	One-day events	Various
	23 - 25	Spring Bank Holiday Congress	Bournemouth
Jun	5 - 6	Worldwide Bridge Contest (Sim Pairs)	Clubs
	5 - 7	Yorkshire Congress	Harrogate
	6 - 7	Corwen Trophy	Kettering
	13 - 14	Pachabo Cup	Kettering
	20	Garden Cities National Final	Kettering
	20	One-day events	Various
	20 - 4	Jul European Open Championships (assumed dates)	TBA
	21	One-day events	Various
	26 - 28	English Riviera Congress	Torquay
	27 - 28	Oxfordshire Congress	Benson
Jul	3 - 5	Summer Seniors and Veterans Congress	Eastbourne
	18	One-day events	Various
	19	One-day events	Various
	20 - 30	European Youth Championships (assumed dates)	TBA
	23 - 26	Northern Summer Congress	Scarborough
	23 - 2	Aug (American Summer Nationals)	Washington DC
	27 - 28	BGB Summer Sim Pairs	Clubs
Aug	14 - 23	Brighton Summer Congress	Brighton
	4 - 6	Junior Teach-in	Loughborough
Sep	26	One-day events	Various
	27	One-day events	Various