



# EBU Event Focus

Issue 14, November 2013

Welcome to this issue of Event Focus.

**At this time of year thoughts turn towards Christmas shopping, and what better gift to get yourself than entry into one of our upcoming tournaments.**



It's easy to enter any of the events below, read about all our competitions, or choose the events you want to attend, by visiting <https://www.ebu.co.uk/members> and booking online through your personal members' area. You can also contact [Peter](#) or [Dawn](#) during office hours on 01296 317203/219 or by emailing [comps@ebu.co.uk](mailto:comps@ebu.co.uk) to enter or get further information.

Please don't forget to take a look at our [diary changes page](#) for any changes to the details of future events since the diary went to print.



## YEAR END CONGRESS

Shed that sluggish feeling from one too many mince pies, and too much Christmas TV by playing in one of our Year End Congresses. Enjoy festive bridge in excellent settings and finish your bridge in 2013 on a high.

### BLACKPOOL

28 - 30 December 2013

This congress has earned the reputation of being relaxed and friendly, and is ideal for players entering a national congress for the first time.

There is a pairs event on the first afternoon, a three-session Swiss Pairs across the first evening and second day, and finishes with a Swiss Teams on the final day.

For 2013 only the congress will be held in the elegant setting of the historic Imperial Hotel, located on The Promenade and within walking distance of the town's attractions.

[Full congress information](#)

[Book here](#)

### LONDON

27 - 30 December 2013

This congress offers 'stratified' tournaments, so caters for all standards, from improver to elite, ensuring an enjoyable congress for all.

There is a stratified Swiss Pairs across the first two days, and a stratified Swiss Teams on the fourth day. Mixed and open pairs competitions take place on the third day.

[Full congress information](#)

[Book here](#)



## NATIONAL TEAMS CONGRESS – new format for 2014

18 – 19 January 2014

A new format for 2014! A pair of events running in parallel: Point-a-Board teams or Swiss Teams.

You choose which version of the event you wish to enter. There will be a qualifying multiple-teams on Saturday in the Point-a-Board prior to Sunday's main final, which will feature longer head-to-head matches. Those failing to qualify for the Point-a-Board final may join the Swiss Teams on Sunday with a carry forward score, or can continue playing Point-a-Board in a secondary final. Alternatively you can play in the Swiss teams throughout the weekend.

This congress will be ideal for players wishing to add to their Green Point tally and there will be enhanced masterpoints in the Point-a-Board teams.

A short guide to Point-a-Board matches is [here](#), or read David Gold's guide to the tactics of PAB in the June 2013 issue of English Bridge.

**Park Inn in Northampton – a new venue for 2014. Please see below.**

[Full congress information](#)

[Book here](#)



## NEW VENUES FOR 2014

In 2014 some of our competitions will be moving to new venues. We had previously used Puma Hotels, but some unsatisfactory situations coupled with their intention to increase both their charges to the EBU and the room rates which you would pay, has prompted us to seek alternatives.



We have chosen the Park Inn chain of hotels having had a positive experience with their hosting of the Junior Camrose. We believe these venues will be both enjoyable places in which to play, and hotels which provide you value for money through the special deals arranged by Bridge Overseas (see Accommodation Booking Service below).



## EBU OVERSEAS MALTA CONGRESS

4 – 10 February 2014

Banish thoughts of the dark and cold British winter by booking to join us in sunny Malta. There is bridge on all seven days of the congress, but also enough free time to visit the sites, enjoy the local culture, and soak up the sun. Whether it is the history, the crafts or the beaches, there's something for everyone in Malta. And the bridge will be good too.

The Spring Overseas Congress is sponsored by Bridge Overseas. Attendance at this congress is exclusive to delegates booking their package with Bridge Overseas.

Please contact [Bridge Overseas](#) to book the accommodation set out or to arrange a bespoke package.

Please contact [Peter Jordan](#) on 01296 317203 if you require any further information.

[Full congress information](#)

[Book here](#)

**A date for your diary – 2014 Autumn Overseas Congress  
8-14 October 2014 at the Hotel Bellevue, Becici, Budva, Montenegro**



## YORK SPRING CONGRESS

28 February – 2 March 2014

**This congress replaces the Harrogate Spring Congress in 2014. The Spring Congress will return to Harrogate in 2015.**

This popular congress moves to York for one year only. Make the most of the opportunity to play bridge in the city of the Minster and The Shambles.

There is a pairs event on the first afternoon, a three-session Swiss Pairs across the first evening and second day, and finishes with a Swiss Teams on the final day.

Both Swiss events are fully Green Pointed. The Mixed/Open Pairs are Blue Pointed on the national congress scale.

The closing date for entries is 12th February 2014 but early entry is advised as this congress may be full before that date.

[Full congress information](#)

[Book here](#)



## REMINDERS

### Simultaneous Pairs Events

Ahead of a new year of EBU-organised Simultaneous Pairs events we wanted to alert you to a number of aspects of the competitions.

**New prize structure:** There is a new prize structure for 2014. There are cash prizes for the overall winners of each event, and each heat winner, and each hosting club, will also have the chance to win up to £1000.

**The hands:** We have received feedback that some people are concerned that hands in a Sims event are manipulated so that they are 'weird'. This is not true. The hands you receive are exactly as dealt.

**The results:** The results service which is provided is excellent, with a breakdown of all the scores and percentages along with hand records and an expert commentary which is both interesting and educational. [Here is an example](#)

**Masterpoints:** Enhanced masterpoints will be awarded so it is therefore an excellent opportunity for those who are seeking a promotion to a higher rank. In addition, the leading pairs nationally will also be awarded **Blue Points**. You can find out more about Blue Points [here](#)

We hope that you will be keen to take part and will encourage your club to host a heat.

For full details of the events and how to enter, please visit [the website](#).

### BBO Online Tournaments

The EBU continues to run games on [Bridge Base Online \(BBO\)](#). They are open to anyone, not just EBU members, although they are specifically aimed towards our members by issuing EBU masterpoints and using EBU regulations.

The games are every Wednesday at 2pm and 4pm, every Saturday at 4pm, and every Sunday at 4pm, 6pm and 9pm. There will not be a game on Christmas Day, but there will be games on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> December.

Please see our website for [more information](#).

### National Pairs Heats

If you wish to enter the National Pairs your club can host a heat. Heats can be hosted by any EBU affiliated club, and the heats can be part of an ordinary club night as not every pair need make themselves eligible – any game with at least three tables can generate qualifiers.

Blue points are awarded in the heats, with Green points available in regional and national finals.

Heats must be completed by mid-February so if you are interested then ask your club secretary or chairman to look on [our website](#) or contact [Peter Jordan](#) on 01296 317203.

[This list](#) has some of the clubs which are hosting heats. If you intend playing somewhere other than your regular club please check that they are accepting visitors on that night. If you know of a heat which isn't listed please [let us know](#).

### Accommodation Booking Service

When considering your accommodation for all tournaments and congresses please remember the Accommodation Booking Service operated by Bridge Overseas.

Most of our quoted special rates are only available from the Accommodation Booking Service operated by Bridge Overseas. They can also arrange accommodation for events where there is no special arrangement in place.

Please see our website for [more information](#)



We hope to see you at one of our events in the not too distant future.  
Until then, we wish you a very Merry Christmas.

Best regards,

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