



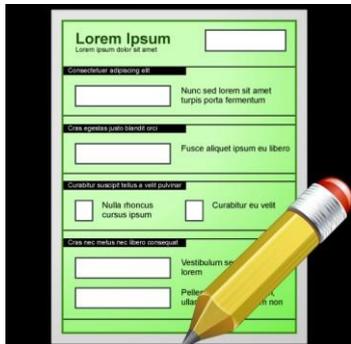
EBU Event Focus

Issue 15, January 2014

Welcome to this issue of Event Focus.

Now that 2014 is well underway, and you start to plan your bridge activities for the rest of the year, there are some great events in the next few months to consider.

You will see there are competitions with multiple venue options, which helps keep down the distance you need to travel to take part and we hope that you will support the event in your area.



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 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.



RANKED MASTERS PAIRS

22 – 23 February 2014 - Park Inn, Northampton

This is a group of pairs championships for which an appropriate EBU Master Point Rank is needed to enter and you will compete against those in the same ranking category.

There are six categories, ranging from Premier Grand Masters to Regional Masters. Full details of each category can be seen on the website.

Those ranked below Regional Master should enter the Masters Pairs (see below).

All events will start at 2pm on Saturday and end between 3:30pm and 5:30pm on Sunday (the exact finishing time will depend on the number of players in each competition).

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

[Full congress information](#)

[Book here](#)



MASTERS PAIRS

23 February 2014 – multiple venues

This event is played as a 2-session, 1-day event scored by match-points simultaneously across several centres.

It is open to players below the rank of Regional Master: Local Masters, Club Masters, Area Masters, District Masters, County Masters, Masters, Advanced Masters, Star Masters, Tournament Masters or Premier Masters.

Members who have attained a [landmark promotion](#) to the rank of Master are entitled to free entry.

Venues

Bradford Bridge Club, [BD8 7HB](#) Richmond

Bridge Club, [TW1 2PG](#) Tunbridge Wells

Bridge Club, [TN1 1DL](#) Welwyn Garden City

Bridge Club, [AL8 6XE](#)

West Midlands Bridge Club, Solihull, [B91 3EP](#)

Exeter Bridge Club, [EX4 8NT](#)



[Locations of Masters Pairs venues](#)

[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).



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](#)



PORTLAND PAIRS

23 March 2014- multiple venues

A two-session Mixed Pairs event held at various venues around the country

This event is played in fifteen venues in England and Wales and is match-pointed over the entire field via the internet.

This is an ideal opportunity to play in a nationwide competition with only a minimal amount of travel required. Green points are awarded.

There are two sessions of 24 boards, starting at noon, and with a second session later in the afternoon.

Venues:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Bournemouth | Brierfield (near Burnley) |
| Bristol | Bury St Edmunds |
| Colwyn Bay | Darlington |
| Exeter | Richmond (London) |
| Sheffield | Solihull |
| Stamford | Steventon (Oxfordshire) |
| Tunbridge Wells | Welwyn Garden City |
| Young Chelsea BC (London) | |



[Locations of Portland Pairs venues](#)

[Full congress information](#)

[Book here](#)



REMINDERS

Bridge England Simultaneous Pairs

National Pairs Heats

There is still time to enter the Bridge England Simultaneous Pairs on Tuesday 4th or Wednesday 5th February.

The proceeds from this event goes towards supporting the England international teams. This includes the Open, Senior and Women's teams, but also, importantly, the junior squads – the next generation of bridge players. The Bridge England Sim Pairs therefore not only supports our successful international teams, but also helps keep the whole English game in good health. We hope that you will support the event.

New prize structure: As per the new 2014 prize structure, each club which hosts a heat will have the chance to win up to £1000. The winning pair of each heat will also have the chance to win up to £1000.

Please encourage your club to take part. Full details of the events and how to enter, along with previous results, can be found at www.ebu.co.uk/sim-pairs.

EBU Online Games Prize Competition

A new Prize Competition for our online games will begin on Saturday 1st February.

The player which accumulates the most BBO masterpoints in our games in any calendar month will receive BB\$20. Second place will receive BB\$10. In the event of a tie for any position the prize will be shared.

This will reward those who are successful on a regular basis and hopefully gives an added incentive to those who play infrequently, or are thinking of playing for the first time. The competition is open to everyone, so you can encourage your friends to take part even if they are not EBU members.

This competition will run alongside the award of EBU masterpoints, so you can still accumulate those even if you are not in the running for the monthly prize.

An archive of all points won to date can be seen [here](#) and the February points totals will appear on that page when that month begins. You can also see a list of the all-time highest points scorers [here](#) – whilst there is no prize for being top of this list we hope that moving up the list, and striving for the top spot, will be an added incentive for you all.

From 1st February the EBU games are on [Bridge Base Online \(BBO\)](#) every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 4pm, every Saturday at 4pm, and every Sunday at 4pm, 6pm and 9pm.

Please see our website for more information.

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. Those qualifying from their club heats will be eligible to play in the Regional Finals on Sunday 16th March.

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](#).

Standby Volunteers

We would always like to hear from pairs who are willing to act as a standby at our events, especially for Swiss Pairs competitions.

Both the directors and the players are very grateful for the role played by standby pairs and your generosity would be much appreciated.

We ask that you attend the competition and if you are required to play then you would receive free entry to the event. If you are not required then reasonable travel expenses will be paid.

For more information, or to volunteer, please contact gordon@ebu.co.uk

Accommodation Booking Service

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

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



We hope to see you at one of our events in the not too distant future.

Best regards,

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