



EBU Event Focus

Issue 17, April 2014

Welcome to this issue of Event Focus.

The next few weeks include some of our bigger events, including a prestigious event which offers the chance to play against some of the biggest names in world bridge.



More information on any events mentioned can be found on our website. It's easy to enter any of the events 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.

The Tournament Committee is responsible for all EBU competitions and the minutes of their most recent meeting can be seen [on the EBU website](#).



EASTER FESTIVALS OF BRIDGE

Join us at Easter for a full weekend of bridge at our two congresses

Easter Festival, London
18 – 21 April 2014



A full programme of bridge across the holiday weekend, with events suited to everyone's standard. The Championship Pairs is on Friday and Saturday, with a stratified Swiss Teams on Sunday and a flighted Swiss Pairs on Monday.

On Friday afternoon there is also the Really Easy Afternoon, a relaxed duplicate pairs event for those with less experience, intended as an introduction to 'congress bridge'. This is unlikely to be suitable for any recipients of Event Focus, but we hope you will have friends or family for whom it would be ideal.

On Saturday afternoon is the Under 19 Pairs Championships, for those born after 1st January 1995.

The event takes place at the Royal National Hotel in London, close to Russell Square.

For more information and the full London schedule [visit our website](#)

Northern Easter Festival
18 – 20 April 2014

The weekend starts with a mixed or open pairs on Friday afternoon, followed by a Swiss Pairs on Friday evening and all day Saturday, and a Swiss Teams on Sunday.

The event takes place at the Park Inn in York, and the schedule offers opportunity to enjoy the city across the weekend.

For more information and the full schedule [visit our website](#)





THE SCHAPIRO SPRING FOURSOMES

2 – 6 May 2014 – Stratford-upon-Avon

Play against some of the best players in the world in one of England's best events

The Schapiro Spring Foursomes is one of the great events in the English calendar, and arguably one of the toughest in domestic bridge.

It draws a field full of some of the best players in English and World bridge, and this year is no exception. Maria-Teresa Lavazza has entered her world champions - Giorgio Duboin, Agustin Madala, Noberto Bocchi, and Argentinian star, Alejandro Bianchedi – and they join World Champion Eric Saelensminde from Norway, Sabine Auken and Roy Welland, of the German team, Zia Mahmood and Marion Michielsen on the entry list. Add the majority of the recent English Venice Cup, Bermuda Bowl, Camrose and Lady Milne teams, and numerous other international players, and you have a star-studded field.



The event is run on double-elimination lines over nine sessions each of 32 boards. A secondary event, the Punchbowl, is open to teams eliminated before Sunday evening. It has a round-robin qualifier followed by a mini knockout. The Hamilton Cup is a more relaxed event for teams seeking a game on Bank Holiday Monday.

Due to generous sponsorship from Mrs Helen Schapiro, prizes are approximately twice the normal EBU value.

Here is a golden opportunity to play against some of the best players in the world. We hope you will join us. For more information please [visit our website](#).



EBU ONLINE GAMES

Every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday

Lunchtime Speedballs now added to the schedule

Lunchtime speedballs have been added to the schedule, starting on Tuesday 8th April. The games will begin at 1pm, and twelve boards will be played in 54 minutes – ideal for during your lunch hour.

These have been added to the schedule of games which take place on five days of the week:

Tuesday at 1pm (speedball) and 4pm
Wednesday at 1pm (speedball) and 4pm
Thursday at 1pm (speedball) and 4pm
Saturday at 4pm (with IMPs scoring)
Sunday at 4pm, 6pm and 9pm



The games are open to everyone (not just EBU members) and Master Points are awarded.

[Full information on the games](#)
[Monthly points list](#)
[All time points list](#)

Monthly Competition

The player who accumulates the most BBO Masterpoints in our games in each calendar month will receive BB\$20. Second place will receive BB\$10.

The competition is open to everyone, including non-EBU members and those overseas, and hopefully gives an added incentive to those who play infrequently, or are thinking of playing for the first time.

A new competition started on 1st April, but you can join at any point during the month. You can also try to move up the overall point winners list, and whilst there is no prize for this there is significant kudos so in addition to earning EBU Master Points there is an incentive to take part even if you are not in the running for the monthly prize.



THE HUBERT PHILLIPS BOWL

2014/15 entries now open

Entries are now open for the mixed teams-of-four championships of England.

This mixed teams-of-four championship is played on the full pivot principle such that one plays one-third of the match with each teammate as a partner.

Teams may contain 4, 5 or 6 players, but only 4 players may play in any given match prior to the semi-final stage, and at no time may an all-male or all-female team be playing.

The scoring is by aggregate with honours counting, so this is an ideal tournament for new players to the game of duplicate from rubber or Chicago bridge.

The event is a knock-out format, with a Plate competition for early loser so that all non-seeded teams play at least two matches. Teams are seeded in the Bowl competition so that every team entering is guaranteed at least one match before meeting a seed.

The draw for the early rounds is regionalized to try to help keep travelling distances small.

The closing date for entries is 18th April 2014.



Former EBU chairman,
Hubert Phillips.

[Full competition information](#)



Forthcoming events

Mark your calendar now for:

[Spring Bank Holiday Congress](#) – 24th - 26th May, Bournemouth

[English Riviera Congress](#) – 27th - 29th June, Torquay

[Summer Seniors Congress](#) – 4th - 6th July, Eastbourne

EBU Spring Simultaneous Pairs – 6th – 12th May

British Summer Simultaneous Pairs – 28th July – 1st August

EBU Blue Point Holidays

We are pleased to be offering five EBU Blue Point Bridge Holiday events in 2014. This is in response to the demand from members for a more social & friendly environment to play and earn national ranking master points.

We hope that these Blue Point holidays can either be a stepping stone towards playing in our Congresses, or simply a fun bridge holiday. As such they are not intended for seasoned bridge congress-goers: they are aimed primarily at those who are below a Jack in the NGS and below the rank of Regional Master. These events therefore may not be suitable for most recipients of Event Focus, but we hope that you will know someone who may be interested and will pass this information on to them.

The next holiday is in Kent starting on 19th May. For more details [visit our website](#).

Standby Volunteers

We would always like to hear from pairs who are willing to act as 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



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

Best regards,

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