



EBU Event Focus

Issue 20, July 2014

Welcome to this issue of Event Focus.

We are pleased to introduce a new competition and also a new forum for finding a partner or team mates for congresses. More details can be found below.

We are also pleased to announce Mercian Travel's sponsorship of the Seniors Congress at Brighton.

As it isn't long now until Brighton we would encourage you to enter, and make your travel and accommodation arrangements, as soon as you can.

Thanks for reading.



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.



New - Player of the Year Championship

The EBU is pleased to announce the introduction of a new competition, the **Player of the Year Championship**.

Players will gain points based on finishing in the top places of the most prestigious events on the EBU calendar. The player accumulating the most place points in the year (1st October to 31st September) will win the prize of £1000.

The events in which points can be scored include knockout competitions and congress tournaments. The first event will be the **Two Star Pairs at the [Autumn Congress](#) in October**.

While this competition will appeal to those battling for the top prize, we also hope that it will prompt some friendly rivalries amongst those lower down the points list as they vie for bragging rights amongst their club-mates. Previous experience indicates that the prize money will be covered by an increase in entries.

The competitions which will make up the Championship Series, and the points that can be scored in each, are available [on our website](#)

Partner Finder Forum

A forum to help you find a partner or team mates for upcoming congresses is now available on our website.

At www.ebu.co.uk/partner-finder-forum you will be able to post a message asking for a partner/team mates, or respond to someone else's request.

To post you will need to log-in using a google account – if you do not have one you can set one up at <http://accounts.google.com>. It will hopefully be straightforward to use, but if you need any help please don't hesitate to contact us.

We can't guarantee you will find a partner this way, nor that your styles will be compatible, but we hope you find it useful and you can have an enjoyable congress as a result.



Brighton Summer Meeting

8 – 17 August 2014 – Hilton Metropole, Brighton

Join us at our flagship event for ten days, one session, or something in between – the choice is yours.

The 2013 congress was one of the best in recent years and we hope that you will join us this year for what promises to be another great event.

There is something for everyone, whether you want to play every day, at weekends, or just a single midweek session. You can also attend training courses or lessons.

See the congress information booklet [here](#).



[Championship Events](#)

The main championship events are held over the two weekends. On the first weekend there is a four-session Swiss Pairs Championship. On the second weekend there is a four-session Swiss Teams Championship.

In both of these events Green Points are awarded at one-and-a-half times the normal rate.

[Brighton Lite Events](#)

This is the title given to all events which are shorter, or have greater flexibility of start time, than the 'main' congress events.

They are still as much a part of the Brighton Summer Meeting as the other events, and give all the enjoyment of the congress, but they are designed to allow more freedom to create a timetable which best suits you.

All Brighton Lite weekend events, for example, start at noon, to allow travel that morning, and finish by 6:30pm to eliminate the necessity for overnight accommodation.

So if you can only come to Brighton for a short time, want to minimise your accommodation needs, or just want more time to enjoy the sights of Brighton, the Lite events may be for you.

[Really Easy Events](#)

'First Step' events are play sessions and lessons for novices and students. 'Next Step' events are for players who have played at their local club and are looking for a relaxed way to move into congress bridge. These events are an ideal way for less experienced players to develop their game and sample the atmosphere of the Brighton Summer Meeting.

The Mercian Travel Seniors Congress

This runs from Monday to Thursday as part of the main congress, and is for anyone born in 1954 or earlier. We are pleased that due to the generous sponsorship of Mercian Travel we are able to offer an increased proportion of entry fees as prize money in the Seniors Congress.

The Under-25 Championship Pairs

This takes place on Tuesday afternoon. All juniors can receive discounted entry for other congress events. Please [contact us](#) for more details.

[Intensive Tournament Director Courses](#)

These take place on weekdays (10:30am to 4:30pm), and this year there will also be a seminar by Martin Lee, giving information and guidance to club TDs on the use of Scorebridge and Bridgemate.

Morning Seminars with 'Experts'

These take place most days, with some of the world's leading players discussing the hands from the previous day. Confirmed speakers include Andrew Robson, David Burn, Espen Erichsen, Michael Byrne, Simon Cope and Brian Senior. Brian will also give a seminar on Friday morning, discussing tactics for Matchpoint and Point-a-Board competitions.



If you need advice on visiting Brighton, then please check our [Brighton Discussion Group](#) and the [Brighton Hub](#) page of our website



SCARBOROUGH SUMMER CONGRESS

24 – 27 July 2014, Scarborough Spa

Join us on the Yorkshire coast for an extended weekend of bridge.

The event starts with a 'Pre-Congress Pairs' on Thursday evening, and continues with a multiple teams event on Friday.

The highlight of the weekend is a three session Swiss Pairs event across Saturday and Sunday.

All events are fully Green Pointed, except for the Pre-Congress Pairs in which Blue Points are awarded.

The schedule includes time in the mornings for enjoying the wonderful North York Moors and coastal resorts.



For more information please [visit our website](#).



TELFORD MIDWEEK CONGRESS

26 – 28 August 2014, Telford Hotel & Golf Resort

A fully Green Pointed midweek congress in the Shropshire countryside

This congress runs from Tuesday to Thursday and features a 3-session 'all play through' Championship Pairs event and a one-day Swiss Teams event.

Entry fees and prizes are specially reduced for this particular congress. Both events will be stratified into three categories with extra prizes and Master Points available for those in the 'B' or 'C' categories.

The schedule includes time to play golf at the hotel, or enjoy attractions in the area, including Ironbridge (right).



For more information please [visit our website](#).



CONFIANCE GUERNSEY CONGRESS

12 – 21 September 2014, La Trelade Hotel, Guernsey

A ten-day congress, mixing bridge with sightseeing opportunities

The schedule is full and varied with a mixture of pairs and teams events. There are also Seniors competitions for those 60 or over.

There is time in the schedule so you can enjoy Guernsey, whether it is the scenery, beaches, villages, or historic sites.

Visitors to the Guernsey Congress have a free choice of hotel and travel arrangements. Early reservations for flights and accommodation is recommended. www.visitguernsey.com may be useful in your planning.



For more information please [visit our website](http://www.visitguernsey.com).



Forthcoming events

Mark your calendars for:

October 4th - 5th – [Great Northern Swiss Pairs](#)

October 8th - 14th – [Bridge Overseas Montenegro Congress](#)

October 17th - 19th – [Autumn Congress, Peterborough](#)

[British Summer Simultaneous Pairs](#) – 28th July – 1st August

[EBED Autumn Simultaneous Pairs](#) – 8th – 12th September – **proceeds will go to the EBED charity to support the development of bridge in England.**

Junior Teach In 2014

Friday 22nd – 24th August 2014
Loughborough University

The Junior Teach In is a bridge weekend for juniors of all ages and bridge ability – from absolute beginners to junior experts.

Whilst bridge is the main focus, with plenty of opportunities to play and learn, there is time for other fun activities too.

Adults are welcome to accompany the children and to join in with the bridge.



For more details, pictures from previous Teach Ins, and an application form, please visit:

www.ebu.co.uk/youth/Junior-Teach-In

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 at Dunkenhalgh Hotel & Spa, in Lancashire, on 1st September. 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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