



EBU Event Focus

Issue 25: December 2014



Merry Christmas and welcome to the December issue of Event Focus. We hope you find it useful.

We hope you have enjoyed your bridge in 2014. We have a full diary of events in 2015 and would encourage you to check the event [calendar](#), and also our [competition summary page](#) which will give you an overview of all our events.

We would also encourage you to support the [Sim Pairs](#) events. We hope you will take part at a club near you, or (and even better) encourage your club to host a heat if they are not already doing so. We hope that the Sim Pairs events are enjoyable for those who take part, but they are also an important way to support **your** union. You and your club may also [win £1000](#). Please see below for further details.

YEAR END CONGRESSES

27th - 30th December 2014, London
28th - 30th December 2014, nr Blackburn

What better way to spend the final days of the year than playing bridge. Shed that sluggish feeling brought on by one too many mince pies and too much television by joining us at one of our Year End Congresses.

Each congress has a Swiss Pairs, Swiss Teams, an Open Pairs and a Mixed Pairs competition. At the London event the Swiss competitions are stratified.

For the timetable for each congress please visit our website - [Year End Congress - London](#); [Northern Year End Congress](#).



**Saturday
27th
December**

At the Year End Congress in London we will also hold another Really Easy Afternoon for less experienced players. The same hands will be played at [Bradford Bridge Club](#), [Richmond Bridge Club](#), and [First Class Bridge Club and Academy, Billericay](#) (please note that the start times are different at each venue). The competition will be scored across all venues.

The event at each venue is open to all - EBU members and non-members alike. Please pass this information on to any friends or family who may be interested.

Year End Congress - London

The event is held at the Royal National Hotel near Russell Square in the heart of London.

Accommodation packages are available at its sister hotel, [The Imperial](#).

The packages include room, meals and parking. Bookings should be made via the hotel's Central Reservation Office:

Tel: 020 7278 7871

Fax: 020 7837 4653

Email:

info@imperialhotels.co.uk

Northern Year End Congress

New venue for 2014 -
[The Dunkenhalgh Hotel](#)

This 4-star hotel, only a few miles from both Burnley and Blackburn, offers a wide range of facilities including a gym, swimming pool and golf course (for those who enjoy a wintery round).

Favourable accommodation rates are available through the [EBU Accommodation Booking Service](#).

SIM PAIRS EVENTS

There are many reasons to take part in our Sim Pairs events:

Win £1000: every heat winner is entered into a draw with a top prize of £1000. [There are 17 other prizes](#), and the same prizes for host clubs too.

Win hundreds of Master Points: the top pairs will win hundreds of Master Points, including Blue Points, just for playing at their 'regular club night'.

Hand commentaries by experts

Support the international teams: the proceeds from the Bridge England Sim Pairs in February support our teams travelling to India for the World Championships.

Support the EBED charity: the proceeds from the EBED Autumn Sim Pairs go towards EBED's work in developing new players of all ages - fundamental to the future of bridge.

Support the EBU: the proceeds of the other Sim Pairs help **your** EBU.

Please take part and encourage your club to host a heat.



THE NATIONAL TEAMS CONGRESS

17th - 18th January 2015, near Birmingham

A pair of events running in parallel: Point-a-Board or Swiss Teams You decide which one to enter

The parallel competitions were introduced for 2014 and proved popular. Both events run concurrently and you choose at the start which 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 features 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.

The Point-a-Board competition carries enhanced Green Points in both the qualifying rounds and final. The Point-a-Board is also part of the **Championship Series** in which points can be won for the [Player of the Year Championship](#)

Green Points are awarded in the Swiss Teams at the standard rate.

Those unfamiliar with Point-a-Board matches may wish to read [this short guide](#), David Gold's guide to the tactics of PAB in the [June 2013 issue of English Bridge](#), or read Brian Senior's [discussion of the different tactics](#) for Point-a-Board, IMPs and Match Points.

For more information on the congress please [visit the event webpage](#).

The venue is the Holiday Inn close to Birmingham airport, so there are great transport links to the rest of the country. The hotel also runs a complimentary shuttle service to Birmingham International railway station.



Trains to central Birmingham take 12 minutes, run approximately every ten minutes, and cost as little as £3 return.

Parking is available free at the hotel for residents, and for non-residents at a public carpark 200m away for £2.50 (when displaying a sign obtained from the hotel reception).

ONLINE KNOCKOUT

Entries are now open for the 2015 EBU Online Knockout Teams competition.

Matches will be played exclusively online and are for teams of four. Green Points will be awarded for each match won.

Entries close on 23rd December, with the first round of matches to be completed by the end of January.

To enter please use the members area of the website or contact the Competitions Department - comps@ebu.co.uk or 01296 317203.

[Competition webpage](#)

INTERNATIONAL TRIALS

Trials for the Lady Milne Trophy 23rd - 25th January 2015 Richmond Bridge Club, London

The Lady Milne Trophy is the competition for the Women's Teams of the Home Nations. As host nation in 2015 we will enter two teams; England and EBU.

The winners of the trial will be invited to join the England team with two exempted pairs - Jane Moore & Gillian Fawcett and Sarah Teshome & Catherine Jagger. The next three placed pairs will form the EBU team.

To enter please email [Dawn Mertens](mailto:Dawn.Mertens@ebu.co.uk). The closing date for entries is 5th January.

The Lady Milne Trophy takes place in Birmingham, 17th - 19th April 2015.

THE HARROGATE SPRING CONGRESS

20th - 22nd February 2015, Cairn Hotel, Harrogate

Be sure to book early for this popular congress

Join us for a weekend of bridge in the lovely spa town of Harrogate. Play on Friday and Saturday starts at 2pm to allow you a chance to enjoy the town.

The congress begins on Friday afternoon with mixed and open pairs events, with the Swiss Pairs starting in the evening. This continues throughout Saturday with nine 8-board matches played across the weekend.

Sunday has a seven round Swiss Teams event.

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 6th February 2015 but **early entry is advised** as the congress may be full before that date.



The venue is the [Cairn Hotel](#).

Hotel rates of £59.95 DBB per person sharing, and £77.95 for single occupancy, are available.

Please book through Bridge Overseas on 0800 0346 246.



How to enter

More information on any events mentioned can be found on our website. It's easy to enter any of the events by visiting www.ebu.co.uk/members and booking online through your personal members' area.

You can also contact [Peter Jordan](#) or [Dawn Mertens](#) during office hours on 01296 317203/219 or by emailing comps@ebu.co.uk.

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

And finally, 'a word from one of our sponsors'

 <p>The Jesmond Dene House Hotel Newcastle-upon-Tyne</p> <p>Saturday, 7th March, 2015 - Sunday, 8th March 2015 (Optional 3rd night available) from £395 pp</p>	 <p>Multi-sessions of bridge Bridge Licensed by the EBU EBU Tournament Director</p> <p>3 AA Rosettes (Highest rated in North East) César Award Winner 2013</p> <p>To book, or for more information, call 0800 456 1119</p>
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Thanks for reading.

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



EBU Competitions
Department

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PLAYER OF THE YEAR CHAMPIONSHIP

The Player of the Year Championship is being led by the members of the Allfrey team after their victory in the Premier League.



Points will be earned at the Gold Cup finals later this month. The first scoring event of the New Year is the **Point-a-Board event** at the **National Teams Congress** (see left).

Anyone wanting to be in with a chance of winning the **£1000 first prize** - or who simply want bragging rights for finishing higher than their friends - should check the details of the future events on [the competition webpage](#).

THE NATIONAL PAIRS

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.

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



Dates for your diary

[Sims events at your clubs](#):
5th - 8th January; 3rd - 4th February;
9th - 12th March;
and more throughout the year

5th - 11th February:
[Bridge Overseas Congress](#), Lanzarote

28th February - 1st March:
[Ranked Masters Pairs](#)
Holiday Inn, Birmingham Airport

1st March
[Master Pairs](#)
Various venues