



EBU Event Focus

Issue 26: January 2015



Happy New Year and welcome to the January issue of Event Focus. We hope you find it useful.

On 28th February – 1st March we will be holding the Ranked Master Pairs. This year, some partnerships, where one player is of a higher rank than the other, will be able play together – please see below for more information.

Also, please support the Bridge England Simultaneous Pairs in February (see below). The proceeds will help support our international teams, including the newly formed Under 15 team's participation in the Junior European Championships.

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).

REALLY EASY WEEKEND

Wroxton House Hotel,
nr Banbury
6th - 8th March

Really Easy Weekends are aimed at 'experienced novices' looking a fun, 'gently competitive', weekend of bridge.

There are four sessions of bridge, plus an optional lesson or time to enjoy the hotel and surrounding area.

A bespoke accommodation package has been arranged with the hotel.

For more details please see [the event brochure](#) or contact [Peter Jordan](#) (01296 317203).

SIM PAIRS EVENTS



The Bridge England Sim Pairs will take place on 3rd & 4th February.

Proceeds from the event will go towards supporting our international teams, in particular the junior squads.

Whilst some events are supported from EBU funds, participation in other events, which are important or beneficial for the development of the squad, is dependent on funds from the Bridge England Sims. For example, **the newly formed Under 15 team will participate in the 2015 European Junior Championships thanks to proceeds from the Bridge England Sim.**

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



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.

RANKED MASTERS PAIRS

28th February - 1st March 2015, nr Birmingham

MASTERS PAIRS

1st March 2015, various venues

The Ranked Masters Pairs and Masters Pairs are pairs championships for which an appropriate EBU Master Point Rank is needed to enter. You will therefore be playing against those of a similar ranking. Green Points are awarded in all competitions.

The **Ranked Masters Pairs** comprises six competitions for specific ranking categories:

- (A) Premier Grand Masters Pairs
- (B) Grand Masters Pairs
- (C) Premier Life Masters Pairs
- (D) Life Masters Pairs
- (E) National Masters Pairs
- (F) Regional Masters Pairs

New for 2015 - a player will be allowed to "play up" to join a partner of a higher rank providing their NGS grade meets certain criteria on 1st January, or they achieve that grade at some point during the January before the event. For example, you would be able to partner a Grand Master in the Grand Masters Pairs if you have not reached that ranking but you are an 'Ace' on the NGS.

We hope that you will encourage your club to take part and support your national team, and particularly the development of the next generation of players.

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

In addition there are other [Sim Pairs events](#) throughout the year.

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.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR CHAMPIONSHIP

The Player of the Year Championship is being led by the members of the Allfrey Gold Cup team after [their victory in the event last 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](#).

Please see [the event webpage](#) for more details on the qualification criteria.

The **Masters Pairs** 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.

Please see [the event webpage](#) for more details on the competition.

Ranked Masters Pairs

The venue is the Holiday Inn close to Birmingham airport.

Please see the panel above in the National Teams Congress information for more information.

Masters Pairs

The event takes place at six locations simultaneously, and is scored across all the venues:

Bradford Bridge Club, [BD8 7HB](#)
Exeter Bridge Club, [EX4 8NT](#)
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](#)

[Overview map of locations](#)



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.

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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THE NATIONAL PAIRS

If you wish to enter the National Pairs, or you know that your club intends holding a heat, please remember that heats must be completed by mid-February.

If you are interested in playing please check our website for a [list of the heats](#) which are taking place.

If your club wants to hold a heat then please remind your club secretary or chairman to look on [our website](#), or to contact [Peter Jordan](#) (01296 317203), as they need to act promptly.



Dates for your diary

[Sims events at your clubs:](#)

3rd - 4th February; 9th - 12th March;
and more throughout the year

5th - 11th February:

[Bridge Overseas Congress](#), Lanzarote

6th - 8th March:

Camrose Trophy, second weekend
Northern Ireland

15th March:

[National Pairs](#), Regional Finals
Various venues

22nd March:

[Portland Pairs](#)
Various venues

3rd - 5th April:

[Northern Easter Festival](#)
Ilkley

3rd - 6th April:

[Easter Festival, London](#)
Royal National Hotel, London