



# EBU Event Focus

## Issue 28: March 2015



### PORTLAND PAIRS

22nd March, various venues

**A two-session mixed pairs event held at venues around the country.**

This mixed pairs event is played in sixteen venues in England and Wales, and match-pointed across the whole field.

This is an ideal opportunity to play in a nationwide, Green Pointed competition with only a small amount of travel.

The venues are:

<b>Billericay (6)</b>	First Class Bridge Academy, <a href="#">CM11 2UD</a>
<b>Bournemouth (4)</b>	Christchurch Bridge Club, <a href="#">BH7 6JD</a>
<b>Bristol (3)</b>	Bristol Bridge Club, <a href="#">BS8 4QQ</a>
<b>Bury St. Edmunds (1)</b>	Great Barton Village Hall, <a href="#">IP31 2NR</a> (not Abbeygate BC as previous listed)
<b>Darlington (10)</b>	St. George's Bridge Centre, <a href="#">DL3 0RW</a>
<b>Exeter (7)</b>	ISCA Centre, <a href="#">EX4 8NT</a>
<b>Lancashire (2)</b>	Brierfield Bridge Club, <a href="#">BB9 5PT</a>
<b>Lincolnshire (11)</b>	Stamford Bridge Club, <a href="#">PE9 2RN</a>
<b>London (16)</b>	Young Chelsea Bridge Club, (see <a href="#">website</a> for location details)
<b>Oxfordshire (12)</b>	Steventon Village Hall, <a href="#">OX13 6RR</a>
<b>Richmond (8)</b>	Richmond Bridge Club, <a href="#">TW1 2PG</a>
<b>Sheffield (9)</b>	Sheffield Bridge Club, <a href="#">S7 1NA</a>
<b>Solihull (15)</b>	West Midlands Bridge Club, <a href="#">B91 3EP</a>
<b>Tunbridge Wells (13)</b>	Tunbridge Wells Bridge Club, <a href="#">TN1 1DL</a>
<b>Welwyn Garden City (14)</b>	Welwyn Garden City Bridge Club, <a href="#">AL8 6XE</a>
<b>Colwyn Bay (5)</b>	Colwyn Bay Cricket Club <a href="#">LL28 4LR</a>

The number in the table equates to the number on the map

### 2015 LADY MILNE TROPHY

**Birmingham, 17th - 19th April**

England will be hosting the Lady Milne Trophy in April. It will take place at the Holiday Inn near Birmingham Airport.

There will be two English teams, and you are invited to come and watch and support the teams. There will be a free vugraph theatre, with expert commentary, so you can follow the action as it unfolds.

Play starts at 7pm on Friday evening, and will conclude around 11:30pm. On Saturday and Sunday play will begin at 10am, and finish around 8pm, with a break for lunch. The schedule and teams are available [on our website](#) and more information will be added when known.

### BLUE POINT HOLIDAY

**Dunkenhalgh Hotel and Spa,**  
**nr Blackburn**

18th - 22nd May

Join us for a week of bridge in the Lancashire countryside. Enjoy social, yet competitive bridge, and the chance to enjoy the local sights or leisure facilities on offer at the hotel.



As the holidays are aimed at social players we suggest they would suit players ranked below Regional Master and below Jack on the NGS scale.

As the name suggests, Blue Points are awarded for each game.

For more information please see the Blue Point Holiday brochure.

Bookings should be made via Bridge Overseas on 0800 0346 246



The map is also available [here](#).

## SIM PAIRS EVENTS

Following the success of the EBED Autumn Simultaneous Pairs last year we are pleased that the Spring Simultaneous Pairs will also be supporting the English Bridge Education and Development charity.

The event will be organised by EBED, with the EBU running the event and acting as its agent for entry fees. The funds raised from the event will go to the charity to help in its mission: encouraging more people to take up bridge, as well as building the infrastructure which will make that aim a reality, to ensure bridge has a strong future.

**Please take part and support the charity's work.**

There are many reasons to take part in the [Sim Pairs events](#) which take place throughout the year:

**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**

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

## EASTER FESTIVALS

3rd - 6th April, London

3rd - 5th April, Ilkley

Drag yourself away from your chocolate eggs and join us at one of the Easter Festivals.

The London event includes a three session Championship Pairs, a flighted Swiss Pairs and a Stratified Swiss Teams. The Northern Easter Festival, run by the Yorkshire CBA on the EBU's behalf, starts with an Open Pairs and a Mixed Pairs competition, continues with a three session Swiss Pairs, and ends with a Swiss Teams. They will also host an improver pairs.

The Under 19 Championship Pairs takes place at the Easter Festival in London. Entry is free, and participants can also gain free entry into the Swiss Teams, and half price entry to the Swiss Pairs.

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



**Friday 3rd  
April**

At the Easter Festival in London we will also hold another Really Easy Afternoon for less experienced players. The same hands will be played at other venues (including Ilkley and Billericay), and 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.

## PLAYER OF THE YEAR CHAMPIONSHIP

There have been no scoring events since the last newsletter, so the Player of the Year Championship is still led by David Gold.



There are a number of upcoming events in which points will be scored in the quest for the the **£1000 first prize** including the National Pairs, The Guardian trophy at the Easter Festival, and the Schapiro Spring Fours.

Details of the points available, and the current standings, can be seen on [the competition webpage](#).

## Easter Festival - 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](mailto:info@imperialhotels.co.uk)



## Northern Easter Festival

The event is held at the grand, Victorian, Craiglands Hotel.

Set in 6 acres of beautiful, landscaped grounds and woodland, Craiglands is just a short walk to the historic spa town of Ilkley and the famous Ilkley Moor.

It is 10 minutes walk from the station. A shuttle service between the station and the hotel will be provided for those travelling by train. The hotel has its own free car park for 200+ cars.



## PACHABO SCORING CHANGES

The Pachabo Cup has for many years, uniquely in this country, been scored by a combination of Point a Board and 'Aggregate Quotient'. The hybrid scoring principle remains for 2015, but has been adapted so that it is more 'transparent', allowing for a better consideration of the tactics needed, and making it easier for those who wish to calculate their own score.

The new scoring format is explained in [this document](#).

If you have any questions about the new scoring method please contact Gordon Rainsford – 01296 317223 [gordon@ebu.co.uk](mailto:gordon@ebu.co.uk).

## JUNIOR TEACH-IN

The popular Junior Teach-In will take place at Loughborough University on 28th to 30th August.

Attendees can expect the usual tuition, competitions, and a hotly contested rounders match, but there will also be some improvement for 2015.

♣ An accelerated learning course for teenagers - novice to player in a weekend.

♦ The introduction of a Junior Awards Scheme, with Certificates of Achievement.

♥ An improved bridge program for accompanying adults.

◇ The use of a new accommodation block

Please encourage any juniors you know to attend. For more information please visit [the website](#), or contact Lisa Miller – 01296 317217 [lisa@ebu.co.uk](mailto:lisa@ebu.co.uk).

## LAMBOURNE JERSEY FESTIVAL

*24th April - 3rd May, Westhill Country Hotel near St Helier*

**A wonderful and very popular congress held annually on the delightful island of Jersey.**

A ten day congress with competitions each evening and all weekend, allowing enough time to enjoy the sights of the island. For those wanting more bridge, and less sightseeing, there is a midweek afternoon Seniors Congress (for those over, or turning, 60 in 2015).

The first weekend is a Swiss Pairs competition, the second weekend is a Swiss Teams. The midweek competitions offer a range of pairs and teams events.

The weekend and Seniors competitions are fully Green Pointed. Other competitions are Blue Pointed on the county congress scale.

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

Entries should be made to John Honey - Tel: 01534 874702, Email: [jsybridgecongress@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jsybridgecongress@yahoo.co.uk)



The venue is the [Westhill Country Hotel](#).

It is set in beautifully landscaped gardens on the edge of St Helier with a complimentary bus to the capital several times a day.

Please see their website for more details.

## SCHAPIRO SPRING FOURSOMES

1st - 5th May, Stratford-upon-Avon

**Join us for the one of the great events of the English bridge calendar**

Considered to be one of the toughest, but for many the most enjoyable, competitions in domestic bridge, the Schapiro Spring Foursome attracts some of the leading players from the UK and beyond. Whatever your standard, it's a chance to test yourself against the best.

The 'double-elimination' format gives everyone a 'second bite of the cherry', and the consolation Punchbowl, and one-day Hamilton Cup Swiss Teams, give third and fourth bites for those who need them.

Due to the generous sponsorship arrangement in place for this event, prizes are approximately twice the normal EBU value. We wish to express our gratitude to Mrs Helen Schapiro in supporting this most prestigious event in this way, and in donating a trophy in the name of her husband, the late, and truly great, [Boris Schapiro](#).

For more information, and to see the current and previous entrants, please [visit the event webpage](#).



The venue is the [Holiday Inn in Stratford upon Avon](#).

The hotel is located near the town centre and is in a very picturesque riverside setting which adds to the enjoyment of this excellent tournament by providing a lovely area to relax in between sessions.



### 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](http://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](mailto: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.



### Dates for your diary

[Sims events at your clubs](#):

9th - 12th March; 7th - 9th & 13th April  
and more throughout the year

15th March:

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

17th - 19th April:

Lady Milne Trophy  
Birmingham (see above)

18th - 19th April:

[National Pairs](#), National Finals  
West Bromwich

9th May:

[Garden Cities Trophy](#), Regional Finals  
Various venues

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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Aylesbury, Bucks, HP19 8AZ