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EBU Event Focus Issue 32: June 2015

Dear EBU member.

With the Summer Meeting just over two months away we hope you are making your plans to join us in Brighton.

To help you with planning your trip we have a page of information and links covering travel, hotels, parking, are more. That is available [here](#).

Also on that page is **a comments board which you can use to both get information on the congress and visiting Brighton, and to find a partner for some, or all, of the event.** Scroll to the foot of the page to see the comments board. It should be straight forward to use, but if you have any problems please get in touch.

We also have the special offer available to anyone booking for the full congress in 2015 - you will receive a £50 discount on the 2016 Summer Meeting which will be in Eastbourne.

Of course there are many other events between now and then, so please read on for details of congresses across the summer.

RIVIERA CONGRESS

3rd - 5th July, Riviera Centre, Torquay

A summer congress at the fabulous Riviera Centre overlooking Torquay Harbour

The congress features a one-day Swiss Teams event on the Friday, followed by a two-day Swiss Pairs event on the Saturday and Sunday. Both are fully Green Pointed.

Away from the table there is time in the schedule to enjoy the beaches and harbours of the English Riviera, venture into Dartmoor, or visit some of the area's tourist attractions.

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

The venue is the [Riviera Centre](#) in Torquay.

There are numerous accommodation options in the area. Some are available via any hotel booking website or the [English Riviera website](#).

NATIONAL PAIRS Changes to the format

We want to remind you of changes to the format of the National Pairs for 2015/16.

The first stage will be the Regional Finals, which will be held at an increased number of venues (see [here](#) for the locations). There will therefore not be any club heats. All venues will play the same boards and the event will be scored across the entire field. The top 50 pairs nationally will qualify to play in the National Final. In addition the venues will be divided into regions, with each region scored by itself, with the winning pairs being awarded 'regional trophies'.

We hope that this will encourage greater interest in the event and lead to a National Final of quality.

The National Pairs is an event in the Championship Series, in which points can be earned towards the [Player of the Year Championship](#) (see below).

EASTBOURNE SUMMER SENIORS CONGRESS

10th - 12th July, Winter Garden, Eastbourne

A long weekend of bridge in the popular seaside resort for those born in 1955 or earlier

There is a two-day Championship Pairs event with two qualifying sessions on Friday being followed by three sessions of finals on Saturday.

There is a Swiss Pairs on the Saturday for those eliminated from the Championship Pairs on Friday, and for new entrants joining the event at this stage. On Sunday there is a Swiss Teams event.

All events are fully Green Pointed, save for the Championship Pairs qualifying rounds (Blue Points, but all qualifiers are guaranteed a Green Point award). The event is supported by the Edith Kaplan Memorial Award of a £500 enhancement to the overall prize fund. There will be special category prizes for veterans pairs and teams (all members of the pair/team must be at least 70 years of age on the first day of play).

To be eligible to play in the congress, players must be born on or before 31st December 1955.

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

The venue is the [Winter Garden](#) in the centre of Eastbourne.

For details of hotels, guesthouses and self-catering accommodation, visit any hotel booking website, or contact:

Eastbourne Information Centre,
Tel: 0871 663 0031
www.visiteastbourne.com
or Eastbourne Hospitality
Tel: 01323 726756

Discounted parking is available for £2 for 24 hours.

SCARBOROUGH SUMMER CONGRESS

23rd - 26th July, 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 the congress webpage](#).

The venue is the [Scarborough Spa](#).

There are numerous accommodation options in the area. Some are available via the [Discover Yorkshire website](#), or visit any hotel booking website.

NATIONAL INTERCLUB KNOCKOUT

Entries now open for the NICKO

The National Interclub Knockout is open to all fully affiliated EBU bridge clubs, and is probably the most popular of all tournaments with around 300 teams entering annually. It is played as a knockout throughout, with the draw regionalised so as to reduce travelling.

Each club can enter an unlimited number of teams, so why not team up with your clubmates and take part?!

Club secretaries will be sent an entry form, and it can also be downloaded from our website. Entries should be submitted by the affiliated Club Secretary, who should be satisfied of the credentials of the players. Details of the qualification requirements are available [on the event webpage](#).

The closing date for entries is 17th September. We hope you will enter.

BLUE POINT HOLIDAY

**Hellidon Lakes Hotel,
Northamptonshire**

3rd - 7th August

A residential bridge event for club players

Join us for an event aimed at social players combining a holiday with some 'gently competitive' bridge. [Blue Points](#) are awarded in all sessions.

As these holidays are aimed at social players we suggest that they are most suited to players who are ranked below Regional Master, and whose NGS grading is no higher than a Jack.

Hellidon Lakes Hotel has golf and spa facilities, and there is time in the bridge schedule to enjoy the facilities.

For more details on the hotel [see here](#).

Please book directly with Bridge Overseas on 0800 0346 246, via the [Accommodation Booking Service](#).

THE SUMMER MEETING

14th - 23rd August 2015, Hilton Metropole, Brighton
19th - 28th August 2016, Winter Garden, Eastbourne

Join us for the EBU's flagship congress

2015 will be the final time the Summer Congress will be in Brighton. We hope you will join us to make it a grand farewell, whether it is for one of the [Weekend Challenge Events](#), [a One Day Event](#), the [Really Easy Congress](#), or [the whole meeting](#).

For full details on the competitions at the congress please follow the respective links.

Those booking the Full Congress in 2015 will receive a £50 discount off the cost of the Full Congress in Eastbourne in 2016. Juniors entering at half price will receive a £25 reduction. We hope this is further incentive to play in both 2015 and 2016, and make them great events to end one era, and start the next.

Accommodation for 2015 at the Hilton Metropole is available at a preferential rate by booking directly with the hotel.

Call 01273 775432 (option 1) and quote the reference AEBU.

Information on travel, parking etc, and a message board to find a partner, is available [here](#).



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.



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NORTHERN MIDWEEK CONGRESS

Dunkenhalgh Hotel & Spa,
Clayton-le-Moors
25th - 27th August

This is a new venue for this fully Green Pointed congress, which includes a 3-session 'all play through' stratified Championship Pairs event and a one-day stratified Swiss Teams event.

The schedule includes time to enjoy the hotel's spa facilities, play golf, or enjoy attractions in the area.

Please [see here](#) for more information.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR CHAMPIONSHIP

There have been no scoring events since the last Event Focus, so no change in the leaderboard.

David Gold still leads, but all may still change with three scoring events remaining in the quest for the £1000 prize. The Crockfords Cup concludes in September, and before that there's lots of points to be won at the Summer Meeting in Brighton (see left) where both the Swiss Pairs and Swiss Teams are part of the Championship Series.

More details, and the current leaderboard, can be seen on [the competition webpage](#).



Dates for your diary

[Sims events at your clubs:](#)

27th - 30th July, 7th - 11th September
and more throughout the year

27th June - 11th July: [European Open Championships](#), Tromso, Norway

18th - 25th July: [European Youth Team Championships](#), Tromso, Norway

28th - 30th August:
[Junior Teach-In](#), Loughborough