



EBU Event Focus Issue 33: July 2015



The Summer Meeting is a little over a month away, so we hope you are making plans to join us in Brighton for a final time. Hopefully you know that if you book for the full congress you will receive a £50 discount on the full congress in 2016 in Eastbourne.

Before then we have the Scarborough Summer Congress, and you should start planning your teams for the NICKO and Crockfords Cup.

As always, if you have any questions please contact the Competitions Department on 01296 317203/219.

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 on the congress please [visit the event 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 take part.



THE SUMMER MEETING

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

Enter the full congress in 2015, get £50 off the full congress in 2016

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](#), the [Mercian Travel Seniors Congress](#) or [the whole meeting](#).

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

The Events

Weekend Challenge Events

Friday 14th - Sunday 16th
(1st weekend): Swiss Pairs
Championship

Friday 21st - Sunday 23rd
(2nd weekend): Four Stars
Swiss Teams Championship

*See the [Weekend Challenge webpage](#)
for more details on these competitions*

*Green points are awarded at one-and-a-half
times the standard rate for both Weekend
Challenge events.*

*The evening event on Sunday 16th, and the
afternoon event on Friday 21st, are free
those entering the Challenge event that
weekend.*

One Day Events

Two session weekend events

Saturday 15th (1st Wknd):
One-day bracketed pairs

Sunday 16th (1st Wknd):
One-day bracketed teams

Saturday 22nd & Sunday 23rd
(2nd Wknd): One-day Swiss
Pairs

*One session - Midweek
Evenings*

Sunday 16th: Open Pairs or
Open Teams

Monday 17th: Play with the
Experts pairs

Tuesday 18th - Champ' Pairs

Wednesday 19th - Mixed
Pivot Teams

Thursday 20th - Mixed Pairs

*One session - Midweek
Afternoons*

Monday 17th to Thursday
20th - Midweek KO Teams

Daily Open Pairs (Monday
17th to Friday 21st)

Friday 21st - Point-a-Board
Teams

*See the [One Day Event webpage](#) for
more details on these competitions*

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more details on these competitions*

*Free entry for Swiss Pairs Championship
players.*

An early start is available

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An early start is available

*Includes Tuesday afternoon pairs for 1st
round losers.*

*Friday Open Pairs or Point-a-Board Teams is
free to all Four Stars Swiss Teams players.*

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 Regional Finals, held at an increased number of venues (see [here](#) for the locations). There will not be any club heats. All venues will play the same boards and the event 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, and the winning pairs awarded 'regional trophies'.

We hope 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).

SIM PAIRS EVENTS

The next Sim Pairs event is the British Summer Sim Pairs - Monday 27th to Thursday 30th July.

Please take part and encourage your club to host a heat - they can enter up until the evening before.

There are many reasons to take part in our [Sim Pairs](#):

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.

Enhanced Master Points: the leading pairs win enhanced Master Points, including Blue Points, whilst playing at their 'regular club night'.

An online results service which includes: **commentaries by experts**; a **double dummy analysis** feature; a **comments board** so you can discuss hands with other participants.

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

Mercian Travel Seniors Congress

Monday 17th & Tuesday 18th: Seniors Pairs *Qualifying on Monday evening, semi-finals and finals on Tuesday.*

Wednesday 19th & Thursday 20th: Seniors Teams *One session each afternoon.*

Under 25 Events

Tuesday: Under 25 Championship Pairs *The event finishes prior to the start of the main congress evening session.*

Late-night Speed Balls *On both Fridays, both Saturdays and Wednesday. Play starts at 11:30pm.*

Discuss it with an Expert *There are seminars most morning. The schedule will be available soon.*

Special Offer for 2016

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. Even if you do not intend playing every day, entering the Full Congress is still the most cost effective option, plus you will receive the discount for 2016.

Accommodation for 2015

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.

For other accommodation options please see some suggestions on the [Brighton 'Pre-Congress' webpage](#).



Finding a partner

If you are looking for a partner for the Summer Meeting, try the comments board on the [Brighton 'Pre-Congress' webpage](#). The comments board is at the foot of the page, and you can post a message giving the details of your availability, or respond to someone who has already posted.

Planning your visit

Information to help you with your visit to Brighton, including on travel, parking and visitors attractions, is available on the [Brighton 'Pre-Congress' webpage](#).

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 change with three scoring events remaining in the quest for the £1000 prize. The Crockfords Cup concludes in September, and before that there are lots of points available at the Summer Meeting (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](#).

CROCKFORDS CUP **Entries open now**

Entries are being taken for the [Crockfords Cup](#), the English teams of four championships. The event is played as a knockout in the early stage.

The competition is part of the **Championship Series**, in which points can be earned towards the [Player of the Year Championship](#) (see above).

The deadline for entries is 10th September 2015.

BOOST ATTENDANCE AT YOUR BRIDGE LESSONS

English Bridge Education and Development, working with EBUTA Professional Teacher and Tutor, Titch Glenday, is pleased to announce the launch of a new course to help teachers and clubs promote their bridge classes.

This one day course perfectly...

NORTHERN MIDWEEK CONGRESS

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

A new venue for this fully Green Pointed midweek congress



This event, in a new venue in rural Lancashire, includes a 3-session 'all play through' stratified Championship Pairs event on Tuesday and Wednesday, and a one-day stratified Swiss Teams event on Thursday.

The schedule includes time to enjoy the hotel's spa facilities, play golf, or enjoy attractions in the area - the coast at Blackpool, the Lake District and the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (pictured above) are all less than an hour away.



Preferential rates are available for those booking via the [EBU Accommodation Booking Service](#) - call **Bridge Overseas Freephone on: 0800 0346 246**
Please [see here](#) for more information.

...compliments the 2-day Club Teacher Training Courses run nationally by EBED – see [here](#) for details of dates/venues.

Entitled 'Market your Teaching', the course is designed to appeal to both new and established bridge teachers with ideas, techniques and strategies to bring students into the classroom and keep them motivated and committed through the learning process. The first course will be held at the EBU's Aylesbury office on Thursday 8th October with further dates at venues around the country to be announced in due course.

Places on the course must be booked in advance and are strictly limited. The cost of the course will be £95.00 per person (which includes a light lunch and refreshments throughout the day).

Contact simon@ebedcio.org.uk for more information.



Dates for your diary

[Sims events at your club:](#)

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

18th - 25th July:

[European Youth Team Championships](#), Tromsø, Norway

28th - 30th August:

[Junior Teach-In](#), Loughborough

5th - 6th September:

[Crockfords Cup Final](#), Birmingham

10th September:

Deadline for entries for 2015/16 [Crockfords Cup](#)

11th - 20th September:

[Confiance Guernsey Festival](#)

17th September:

Deadline for entries for 2015/16 [NICKO](#)

26th September - 10th October:

[Bermuda Bowl](#), [Venice Cup](#), [D'Orsi Bowl](#), Chennai, India

Thanks for reading.

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

EBU Competitions Department

Tel: 01296 317203/219

www.ebu.co.uk/competitions,

comps@ebu.co.uk

Broadfields, Bicester Road, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP19 8AZ