



# EBU Event Focus

## Issue 37: November 2015



Now the clocks have changed, and the winter gloom will soon be here, we hope you are planning to spend the next few months playing bridge with us. Whether at a congress, in the online knockout teams, or in a Sim Pairs at your club, there are events to suit all tastes. And with upcoming international trials and a Really Easy event there is something for all standards too.

We hope to see you at one of our events in the coming months. As always, if you have any questions please contact the Competitions Department on 01296 317203/219. Entries can be made by calling this number, or through the members area of the website - [www.ebu.co.uk/members](http://www.ebu.co.uk/members)



### SENIORS CONGRESS

*6th - 8th November, Holiday Inn,  
Birmingham Airport*

**A three day congress for those born in 1955 or earlier**

The weekend starts with a two-day Championship Pairs – two qualifying rounds on Friday, and two finals on Saturday, with both a two-session Championship Pairs final and a two-session Satellite Pairs final.

On Saturday there is a Swiss Pairs Championship, open to pairs eliminated from the Championship Pairs at the end of Friday evening, and to players joining the congress on Saturday. It is a two session event, with nine 6-board matches.

There is a Swiss Teams Championship on Sunday. It is a two-session event, with a total of seven 7-board matches.

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



The venue is the [Holiday Inn](#) close to Birmingham airport, with great transport links to the rest of the country. The hotel runs a free 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.

Favourable rates on accommodation at the hotel are available via Bridge Overseas on: 0800 0346 246

### ONLINE KNOCKOUT COMPETITION

Entries are now open for the 2016 [Online Knockout Teams](#) competition.

As the name suggests matches are played exclusively online. It is for teams of four (from a squad of up to six), all of whom must be members of the 'home union' federations - so tell your friends in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland.

There is a plate competition, at no extra charge, for those losing their first match. Half-price entry is available to players under 25.

Green Points are awarded for each match in the main competition; Blue Points in the plate competition.

The first round will be played in January 2016.

**Entries close on Wednesday 23rd December.** Enter by calling 01296 317203, emailing [comps@ebu.co.uk](mailto:comps@ebu.co.uk), or through the member's area of the website.

## YEAR END CONGRESS

27th - 30th December,  
Royal National Hotel,  
London



## NORTHERN YEAR END CONGRESS

27th - 29th December,  
Dunkenhalgh Hotel, Lancashire



**Say farewell to 2015 with a great few days of bridge**

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](#).

**Please note that the dates of Northern Year End Congress are a day earlier than usual in 2015.**



### Really Easy Afternoon 27th December, multiple venues

An event aimed at less experienced players (ranked lower than a Master and below a Jack on NGS), intended as an introduction to 'congress bridge'. The event takes place at multiple venues with the same hands played at each, and scored across all sites. The current venues are:

- [Brierfield Bridge Club](#) - 2:00pm start
- [First Class Bridge Academy, Billericay](#), - 2:30pm start
- [Year End Congress, London](#) - 3:30pm start

Any others will be added to the website when known.

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.

## SIM PAIRS EVENTS

A new year of Sim Pairs events organised by the EBU starts in the first week of January.

We hope you will take part and encourage your club to hold a heat. [This document](#) outlines some of the benefits of participation and gives the dates of the 2016 events.

The draw for the prizes for the heat winners, and host clubs, both with top prizes of £1000, and [17 other prizes](#), will be made at the AGM on 25th November.

## INTERNATIONAL TRIALS

Trials for the England Senior and Women's teams will be taking place in the coming months.

### Senior trials

The [trials](#) for the team to represent England in the Teltscher Trophy - the 'Senior Camrose' - will take place on 5th - 7th February at West Midlands Bridge Club in Solihull.

Please send your application to enter to [dawn@ebu.co.uk](mailto:dawn@ebu.co.uk) by **30th November**.

### Women's trials

The [trials](#) to represent England in the Lady Milne Trophy will take place in London on 22nd - 24th January.

If you wish to take part please contact [dawn@ebu.co.uk](mailto:dawn@ebu.co.uk) by **5th January** to express your interest.

## Year End Congress

The congress is held at the [Royal National Hotel](#), near Russell Square in central London.

Special rates are available at the nearby Imperial Hotel. Four nights, bed & breakfast in single rooms is available for £268. Rates for shorter or longer stays are also available. See the [event webpage](#) for more details.

To book contact the Central Reservation Office.

Tel: 020 7278 7871;

Email: [info@imperialhotels.co.uk](mailto:info@imperialhotels.co.uk)



## Northern Year End Congress

The congress is held at the [Dunkenhalgh Hotel & Spa](#), between Burnley and Blackburn in central Lancashire.

Special rates are available at the hotel. Dinner bed & breakfast, in a shared double room, is £49.95 per person (single supplement of £15). See the [event webpage](#) for more details.

To book contact Bridge Overseas on 0800 0346 246



## PLAYER OF THE YEAR CHAMPIONSHIP

The first points towards the 2015/2016 [Player of the Year Championship](#) were awarded for the Two Star Pairs at the Autumn Congress.

That event was won by Carina Negreanu & Adam Bowden, who are therefore the early leaders.



The next points will be awarded for the Gold Cup in December, and [National Teams Congress](#) in January.



## Dates for your diary

31st October - 1st November:

[Premier League](#), 2nd weekend, Coventry

6th - 8th November:

[Premier League](#), 3rd weekend, London

4th November: Deadline for entries for [Tollemache Cup](#)

21st - 22nd November: [Tollemache Cup](#) qualifying round, Holiday Inn, Birmingham Airport

12th - 14th November:

[European Champions' Cup](#), nr Milton Keynes

12th - 13th December:

Gold Cup finals, West Midlands BC, Solihull

18th - 20th December:

Senior European Trials, West Midlands BC, Solihull

23rd December:

Deadline for entering [Online KO Teams](#)

4th - 7th January: British Winter Sim Pairs

8th - 10th January: Camrose, 1st Weekend, Ireland

16th - 17th January: [National Teams Congress](#), Birmingham

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](http://www.ebu.co.uk/competitions), [comps@ebu.co.uk](mailto:comps@ebu.co.uk)

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