



EBU Event Focus Issue 38: December 2015



Winter is coming - 'tis the season to play some online bridge. The EBU Online Knockout Competition starts in January, and entries close just before Christmas. Why not team up with some friends and play in an EBU event without leaving the warmth of your fireside?! See below for more details.

Of course we have upcoming congresses too, and these are great chance to finish 2015 with a bang, and start 2016 as you mean to go on. See below for more details. **If you wish to book accommodation for the Year End Congress or Northern Year End Congress please do so promptly.**

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

YEAR END CONGRESS

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



NORTHERN YEAR END CONGRESS

*27th - 29th December,
Dunkenhalgh Hotel, Lancashire*



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, or through the member's area of the website.

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

PORTLAND PAIRS

The Portland Pairs - a two session, mixed pairs event - takes place across multiple venues on Sunday 20th March.

played at each, and scored across all sites. The current venues are:

- [Plymouth Bridge Club](#) - 1:00pm start
- [Richmond Bridge Club](#) - 2:00pm start
- [Brierfield Bridge Club](#) - 2:00pm start
- [First Class Bridge Academy, Billericay](#), - 2:30pm start
- [Year End Congress, London](#) - 3:30pm start

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.

Year End Congress Northern Year End Congress

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

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

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.

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 the Central Reservation Office.
Tel: 020 7278 7871;
Email: info@imperialhotels.co.uk

To book contact Bridge Overseas on 0800 0346 246



NATIONAL TEAMS CONGRESS

16th - 17th January, Holiday Inn,
Birmingham Airport

Choose from Swiss or Point-a-Board Teams events

The third year with this new format - a pair of events running in parallel - Point-a-Board teams or Swiss Teams. You choose which version of the event you wish to enter.

There will be enhanced masterpoints in the Point-a-Board teams and it is also part of the Championship Series, in which points can be earned towards the [Player of the Year Championship](#).

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 will join the Swiss Teams on Sunday with a carry forward score. Those who prefer can play in the Swiss teams throughout the weekend.

More information is available on [our website](#), but we wanted to highlight one new venue for 2016 - [Wallingford Bridge Club, OX10 6JJ](#), replaces Stevenston Village Hall, as the venue in Oxfordshire.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR CHAMPIONSHIP

Following their victory in the Premier League the Player of the Year Championship is being led by Jason Hackett, Justin Hackett, Alex Hydes, David Mossop, David Price & Colin Simpson.



It is still early, however, with many more points up for grabs.

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

INTERNATIONAL TRIALS & SQUADS

Women's trials

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

If you wish to take part please contact dawn@ebu.co.uk by **5th January** to express your interest.

Under 25 Women

[Sally Brock](#) has been appointed as the Squad Leader for the Under 25 Women's Squad, and will be assisted by [Fiona Brown](#) and [Bryony Youngs](#).

A short guide to Point-a-Board matches is [here](#), read 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 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



BRIDGE OVERSEAS CYPRUS CONGRESS

1st - 7th February, Athena Beach Hotel, Paphos

Join us for late winter sun and a full programme of bridge

Situated on the south-west coast of Cyprus, Paphos is the ideal holiday destination for those seeking sunshine and relaxation. Yet there is more to Paphos than that: lovers of archaeology, history and culture will find a wealth of attractions, and the more active can enjoy horse riding, cycling or hiking in the nearby countryside.

The Spring Overseas Congress is sponsored by Bridge Overseas. Attendance at this congress is exclusive to delegates booking their package with Bridge Overseas. To book please contact Bridge Overseas on 0800 0346 246.

The bridge schedule includes competitions every day - including Green Pointed Swiss Events - but also enough time to enjoy the island's attractions. The full schedule, and further information, is available on [our website](#).



The Athena Beach Hotel is a 4* plus, beachfront hotel. It has recently been completely renovated with all restaurants, bars, guest rooms, spa, and gym refurbished to luxurious standards. Visit [the hotel's website](#) for more details and pictures



Please book with Bridge Overseas on: 0800 0346 246

We are particularly keen to hear from young women who are interested in becoming part of the squad. The squad will train alongside the current U25, U20 and U15 squads, and participants in the U25 Women's squad will be eligible for selection in all relevant categories.

If you would like to apply to join the squad, or want more information, please contact dawn@ebu.co.uk.

SIM PAIRS EVENTS

The draw for the prizes for the heat winners, and host clubs, for the 2015 Sim Pairs events took place at the AGM.

The first prizes went to Hetty Jackson & Susan Dodds of Castle Morpeth BC, and to Wantage BC of Oxfordshire. The full list of winners can be seen [here](#).

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

The Bridge England Sim Pairs, which supports our international teams, particularly the Under 15 squad (who recently [performed well the Czech Republic](#)), takes place on 2nd & 3rd February.



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



Dates for your diary

12th - 13th December:

Gold Cup finals, West Midlands BC, Solihull

18th - 20th December & 22nd - 24th January

Senior European Trials, West Midlands BC, Solihull

23rd December:

Deadline for entering [Online KO Teams](#)

4th - 7th January: British Winter Sim Pairs

2nd - 3rd February: Bridge England Sim Pairs

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

22nd - 24th January

Lady Milne Trials, Young Chelsea BC, London

5th – 7th February 2016.

Teltscher Trophy Trials, West Midlands BC, Solihull

13th - 14th February

Tollemache Cup Final, Park Inn, West Bromwich

Thanks for reading.

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

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