



EBU Event Focus Issue 34: Summer Meeting



The Summer Meeting is just two weeks away, and we hope you will be joining us to make the final congress in Brighton a great success.

This newsletter will provide you with information on the events taking place in Brighton, plus some information to help you plan your visit, including travel and accommodation.

There is an event for everyone at the congress, regardless of your standard, or the amount of time you have available. Whether you are a newcomer, or experienced player, can come for only a day or the whole event, there is something to suit you.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask by [email](#), or by contacting the Competitions Department on 01296 317203/219.

To enter please use the 'book events' section of the [members area](#) of the website, or contact the Competitions Department.

Weekend Challenge Events

The Weekend Challenge Events at the Summer Meeting in Brighton are the flagship events of the meeting, and are for those looking for an intensive long weekend of bridge.

They take place across three days, with enhanced Green Points available to reflect the prestigious nature of the competition. If you are looking for a full weekend of quality bridge, these are the events for you.

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

14 eight-board matches, played across four sessions.

Participants in the Swiss Pairs can take in the Sunday evening Open Pairs at no extra charge

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

10 eight-board matches are played across three sessions. The top sixteen teams then go forward into all-play-all Four Stars finals - the leading eight teams to the 'A' final, the next eight into the 'B' final. In each final there is a full round-robin of 7 eight-board matches. Those teams outside the top 16 will continue to play Swiss Teams, for the Brighton Bowl.

Participants in the Swiss Teams can play in the Friday afternoon Open Pairs or Point-a-Board Teams at no extra charge.



One Day Events

The One Day Events give all the enjoyment of the full meeting, but with events and timings designed to allow greater flexibility. So whether you can only come to Brighton for a short time, or just want more time to enjoy the sights of Brighton, these events are for you.

The One Day Events at the weekends start at noon, to allow travel that morning, and finish by 6:30pm to eliminate the necessity for overnight accommodation.

The midweek evening events have an early start option to help those visiting Brighton for the day.

The First Weekend:

Two one-day 'bracketed' events - pairs on Saturday and teams on Sunday. After an initial qualifying session the field is split into groups based on the results of that qualifying session. The second session is then played within in each group.

The Second Weekend:

Two one-day stratified Swiss Pairs. Each event is of six seven-board matches, with extra prizes and Master Points available for those playing both days.

Midweek:

All the well-known midweek events are in the One Day Event programme, including the daily Open Pairs and our regular midweek events:

['Play with the Experts' Pairs](#), Monday evening;

Midweek Knockout Teams each afternoon from Monday to Thursday

Pairs Championship, Tuesday evening;

Mixed Pivot Teams, Wednesday evening;

Mixed Pairs, Thursday evening;

Point-a-Board teams, Friday afternoon.

The weekend and weekday evening events are Green Pointed.

The weekday afternoon events are Blue Pointed.

Mercian Travel Seniors Congress

We are very grateful to [Mercian Travel](#) for sponsoring the Seniors Congress for a second year.

To be eligible for a Seniors event, players must have their 60th birthday or beyond during the calendar year (January-December) of the event. Participants should therefore be born on, or before, 31st December 1955

Monday 17th & Tuesday 18th: Seniors Pairs

Qualifying on Monday evening, semi-finals on Tuesday afternoon, and the final on Tuesday evening.

Wednesday 19th & Thursday 20th: Seniors Teams

There is one session each afternoon.

Under 25 Championship Pairs

This event takes place on Tuesday afternoon, and is open to those born after 18th August 1990. All nationalities of juniors are welcome. **Please enter in advance where possible.**

The winners will, if both players are England-eligible, each be offered a place on an England junior team during the following 12 months.

All Under-25s are eligible for half-price entry to any EBU event. England junior squad members may be eligible for free entry to the weekend events at Brighton. Please see [here](#) for more details.



The Really Easy Congress

The Really Easy Congress is split into two events - the First Step, and the Next Step.

Individuals are welcome to enter - you don't need a partner - and you can enter single sessions as well as the full programme.

First Step

For those who have recently started to learn to play, may have just completed their first year of lessons, and have just started to enter competitions.

The First Step congress will combine a lesson and competitions. You will play sessions of 15 to 21 boards from Monday to Wednesday and you will be expected to play a basic Acol system.

Next Step

The Next Step event is for players will have been playing in a local club and want to try out an EBU congress event. Sessions will be about 21-24 boards and players can use their preferred bidding system.

We hope that those who have taken part in Green Point events, or participated in the Next Step events at the Really Easy Congress in the past, will take part in the main congress events - either the One Day Events or the Weekend Challenge Events.

First Step

- Mon afternoon - Lesson (topic TBC)
- Mon evening - Bridge session 1
- Tues morning - Lesson (topic TBC)
- Tues afternoon - Bridge session 2
- Tues evening - Free evening/informal play
- Wed morning - Bridge session 3 (Swiss Pairs)

Next Step

- Tues afternoon - Bridge session 1
- Tues evening - Bridge session 2
- Wed morning - Bridge session 3 (Swiss Pairs)
- Wed evening - Bridge session 4
- Thurs morning - Lesson (topic TBC)
- Thurs afternoon - Bridge session 5



The full congress timetable is available [here](#)

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.

[The full price list for the congress is available here](#)

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.

There are also still numerous other accommodation options available at reasonable rates:

First weekend, less than £80/person/night:

- [Hotels.com](#)
- [Laterooms.com](#)
- [Expedia.co.uk](#)

Second weekend, less than £80/person/night:

- [Hotels.com](#)
- [Laterooms.com](#)
- [Expedia.co.uk](#)

Midweek, less than £50/person/night:

- [Hotels.com](#)
- [Laterooms.com](#)
- [Expedia.co.uk](#)
- [Travelodge](#) (search may default to today's date, so you may need to search again to see accurate prices)

These links are provided as a guide, and are not a recommendation of quality of service or product. Prices are based on two people sharing.

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](#).

Driving

If you intend driving to Brighton, and want to save on parking charges, check the [parkopedia website](#), which highlights areas of low cost - or free - parking. Many are within walking distance (albeit a decent stroll) of the venue, or are on, or adjacent to, bus routes which will take you to the centre of the city.

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.

There are a number of people looking for partners or teammates, so you may be able to find someone.

We will also have sign-up sheets and a 'match-making service' available during the congress, so you can hopefully find someone to play with to fill any gaps in your schedule.

Thanks for reading.

We hope to see you in Brighton.

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