



# EBU Event Focus

## Issue 39: January 2016



Happy New Year. We hope you have a great 2016.

Our 2016 events start in just over a week with the National Teams Congress, and there are plenty of other competitions to keep you busy during the winter months. We have congresses - both domestic and overseas, events with regional heats, and the usual selection of sim pairs events.

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)



### 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.

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

### PORTLAND PAIRS

The Portland Pairs - a two session, mixed pairs event - takes place across multiple venues on Sunday 20th March. The event is scored across all venues, with Green Points awarded.

**Billericay** - First Class Bridge Academy, [CM11 2UD](#)

**Bournemouth** - Christchurch BC, [BH7 6JD](#)

**Brierfield BC** - [BB9 5PT](#)

**Bristol BC** - [BS8 4QQ](#)

**Bury St. Edmunds** - Great Barton Village Hall, [IP31 2NR](#)

**Darlington** - St. George's Bridge Centre, [DL3 0RW](#)

**Exeter** - ISCA Centre, [EX4 8NT](#)

**London** - Young Chelsea BC, [W12 8HA](#)

**Richmond BC** - [TW1 2PG](#)

**Sheffield BC** - [S7 1NA](#)

**Solihull** - West Midlands BC, [B91 3EP](#)

**Stamford BC** - [PE9 2RN](#)

**Tunbridge Wells BC** - [TN1 1DL](#)

**Wallingford BC** - [OX10 6JJ](#)

**Welwyn Garden City BC** - [AL8 6XE](#)

For all English venues, entries should be made to the EBU.

If you wish to play at the Welsh venue please contact the heat organiser:



## 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 accommodation with Bridge Overseas on: 0800 0346 246



## HARROGATE CONGRESS

*19th - 21st February, Old Swan Hotel, Harrogate*

**A full three days of bridge in the popular spa town**

The congress starts with an Open Pairs and Mixed Pairs on Friday afternoon, before the main Stratified Swiss Pairs starts on Friday evening. This is a three session event, which concludes on Saturday evening. There is then a Swiss Teams event on Sunday.

**This congress often sells out, so be sure to enter in advance, and as early as you can.** Please see [the event webpage](#) for more details.



[The Old Swan](#) is one of the most famous hotels in Harrogate, with a history going back nearly 200 years.

Surrounded by pretty lawns and gardens, and just a short walk from the town centre, it combines Victorian splendour with contemporary luxury.

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

Played at: Colwyn Bay Cricket Club [LL28 4LR](#)

Entries to: Mrs Sheila Shea, 4 Norton Road, Rhos on Sea, Colwyn Bay, LL28 4TH  
Tel: 01492 540942

Email: [sheila.shea@talktalk.net](mailto:sheila.shea@talktalk.net)

## SIM PAIRS EVENTS

A new year of Sim Pairs events is underway, and continues next month with the Bridge England Sim Pairs. The event supports our international teams, particularly the Under 15 squad, and takes place on 2nd & 3rd February.



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

## NATIONAL PAIRS

The National Pairs has changed this year with the competition starting with Regional Finals on 13th March. Now everyone can enter the Regional Finals, without needing to qualify locally. These will take place at:

*Northern Region*

[Bradford Bridge Club](#) - [BD8 7HB](#)

[St. George's Bridge Centre](#),

Darlington - [DL3 0RW](#)

*Midlands Region*

[West Midlands Bridge Club](#),

Solihull - [B91 3EP](#)

*South East Region*

[Patcham Bridge Club](#), Brighton

- [BN1 8TA](#)

[Richmond Bridge Club](#), London

- [TW1 2PG](#)

[Young Chelsea Bridge Club](#),

London - [W12 8HA](#)

*South West Region*

[Bristol Bridge Club](#) - [BS8 4QQ](#)



## RANKED MASTERS PAIRS

27th - 28th February, Holiday Inn,  
Birmingham Airport

### MASTERS PAIRS

28th February, various venues

**Pairs championships for those of specific Master Point rankings**

As an appropriate EBU Master Point Rank is needed to enter you will therefore be playing against those of a similar ranking. Green Points are awarded in all competitions.

The **Ranked Masters Pairs** comprises six competitions for specific ranking categories:

Premier Grand Masters Pairs	Grand Masters Pairs
Premier Life Masters Pairs	Life Masters Pairs
National Masters Pairs	Regional Masters Pairs

You will also be allowed take part if you have a suitable NGS status. Please see [the event webpage](#) for more details on the qualification criteria. Members who have attained a [landmark promotion](#) are entitled to free entry.

The **Masters Pairs** is open to players below the rank of Regional Master: Local Masters, Club Masters, Area Masters, District Masters, County Masters, Masters, Advanced Masters, Star Masters, Tournament Masters or Premier Masters. Members who have attained a [landmark promotion](#) to the rank of Master are entitled to free entry.

The event takes place at seven locations simultaneously, and is scored across all the venues:

<a href="#">Bradford Bridge Club, BD8 7HB</a>	<a href="#">Exeter Bridge Club, EX4 8NT</a>
<a href="#">Tunbridge Wells Bridge Club, TN1 1DL</a>	<a href="#">Richmond Bridge Club, TW1 2PG</a>
<a href="#">First Class Bridge Academy, Billericay, CM11 2UD</a>	<a href="#">Welwyn Garden City Bridge Club, AL8 6XE</a>
<a href="#">West Midlands Bridge Club, Solihull, B91 3EP</a>	



## Dates for your diary

8th - 10th January: Camrose, 1st Weekend, Ireland  
4th - 6th March: 2nd Weekend, Wales

22nd - 24th January  
Senior European Trials, stage 2

22nd - 24th January  
Lady Milne Trials, Young Chelsea BC, London

2nd - 3rd February: Bridge England Sim Pairs  
14th - 17th March: Club Stratified Sim Pairs

5th - 7th February  
Teltscher Trophy Trials, West Midlands BC, Solihull

13th - 14th February  
Tollemache Cup Final, Park Inn, West Bromwich

19th - 21st February  
Junior Camrose & Peggy Bayer, Scotland

5th March  
Young Bridge Challenge

[Exeter Bridge Club - EX4 8NT](#)

*Eastern Region*

[Cresset Centre](#), Peterborough -  
PE3 8DX

[First Class Bridge Academy](#),  
Billericay - [CM11 2UD](#)

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. Should any pair be unable to play in the National Final, their place will be taken by the next-ranked pair.

In addition a ranking list will be produced from each region (scored by itself), with the winning pairs being awarded the regional trophies.

The National Final will take place near Birmingham on the weekend of 16th and 17th April 2016.

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

## YOUNG BRIDGE CHALLENGE

A free, one-day bridge event for school-age players of all experience levels, taking place in Loughborough on Saturday 5th March.

Please see [here](#) for more information, and encourage all youngsters you know to take part.