



# EBU Event Focus

## Issue 40: February 2016



This weekend do something special for your one true love - bridge - and sign up for an EBU event. We have congresses, sim pairs, competitions aimed specifically at each level of Master Point ranking, and events with regional heats. There's something for everyone.

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). Entries for the Northern Easter Festival should be made directly to the Yorkshire CBA - see below for more details.



### 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.

The congress is likely to sell 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.

Favourable rates at the hotel are available via Bridge Overseas on 0800 0346 246, but they are very nearly fully booked.



### 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:

### 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:

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)

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:

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

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

[Tunbridge Wells Bridge Club, TN1 1DL](#)

[Richmond Bridge Club, TW1 2PG](#)

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

[Welwyn Garden City Bridge Club, AL8 6XE](#)

[West Midlands Bridge Club, Solihull, B91 3EP](#)



### **The Easter Festival**

*25th - 28th March, Royal National Hotel,  
London*

### **The Northern Easter Festival**

*25th - 27th March, Craiglunds Hotel,  
Ilkley*

**Drag yourself away from your chocolate eggs and join us at one of the Easter Festivals**

The London event includes a three session Championship Pairs, a flighted Swiss Pairs and a Stratified Swiss Teams. An early start is available on Friday for the Championships Pairs - if you wish to start at 2pm rather than the standard 4pm please let us know when entering.

The Northern Easter Festival, run by the Yorkshire CBA on the EBU's behalf, starts with an Open Pairs and a Mixed Pairs competition, continues with a three session Swiss Pairs, and ends with a Swiss Teams. They will also host an improver pairs which is part of the Really Easy Afternoon (see below).

The Under 21 Championship Pairs is part of the Easter Festival in London. Entry is free (please enter in advance), and players also gain free entry to the Swiss Teams, and half price entry to the Swiss Pairs.

For the timetable for each congress please visit our website - [Easter Festival - London](#); [Northern Easter Festival](#).

Entries for the Northern Easter Festival should be made directly to YCBA. See the [event entry form](#) for more details.

## **SIM PAIRS EVENTS**

The next sim pairs event is the Club Stratified Sim Pairs in mid-March.

### **EBED Sim for Dementia Research**

The May and September EBED Sim Pairs events will be specifically raising funds for research in to the cognitive benefits of playing bridge, such as whether bridge delays the onset and severity of dementia. Please 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 8T](#)

[Richmond Bridge Club](#), London - [TW1 2PG](#)

[Young Chelsea Bridge Club](#), London - [W12 8HA](#)

*South West Region*

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

[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.



## Really Easy Afternoon

25th March, multiple venues

An event aimed at less experienced players (ranked below Master and below 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. Current venues are:

- [Northern Easter Festival](#) - 1:30pm start
- [Wimbledon Bridge Club](#) - 2:00pm start
- [Brierfield Bridge Club](#) - 2:00pm start
- [First Class Bridge Academy, Billericay](#), - 2:00pm start
- [Easter Festival, London](#) - 4:00pm 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.

### Easter Festival, London Northern Easter Festival

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)



The event is held at the grand, Victorian, Craiglands Hotel.

It is 10 minutes walk from the historic spa town of Ilkley and the station. A shuttle service between the station and hotel will be provided for those travelling by train. The hotel has its own free car park.

Rates for Dinner, Bed & Breakfast start at £52.50 per person, per night. See the [event entry form](#) for more details.



## Schapiro Spring Foursomes

29th April - 3rd May, Stratford-upon-Avon

**Get your entries in for one of the highlights of the English bridge calendar**

Entries are coming in for the Schapiro Spring Foursomes. Join the [teams who have already registered](#), which includes some elite international players, and take part in one of our most prestigious events.

With two consolation events available it ensures a full long-weekend of high quality bridge. Entries are limited, so get your entry in soon before it fills up. See the [event webpage](#) for more details.

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](#).

### PLAYER OF THE YEAR CHAMPIONSHIP

Simon Cope was part of the winning team in the Point-a-Board competition at the National Teams Congress, so moves to the top of the leaderboard. Full rankings, and information on the upcoming scoring events, are [here](#).

### 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.

### FREE TRIAL OF BRIDGE CLUB LIVE

EBU Members who are not already members of Bridge Club Live (BCL) can enjoy a free, 50 day trial of the online bridge website. The free trial will allow you to try out BCL - the only Online Affiliated Club - to see if you enjoy playing online when you're not able to play at your local club.

[See here](#) for more information or to register.



## Dates for your diary

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

4th - 6th March: Camrose, 2nd Weekend, Wales

14th - 17th March: Club Stratified Sim Pairs  
4th - 7th April: British Spring Sim Pairs

15th - 17th April: Lady Milne Trophy, N. Ireland

22nd April - 1st May: Lambourne Jersey Festival

7th May: Garden Cities Trophy, Regional Finals

Thanks for reading.

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

EBU Competitions Department

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