



EBU Event Focus Issue 44: May 2016



Do you sometimes want to play in an EBU congress, but your usual partner or team mates have other plans? If that's the case then try looking for a partner, or team mates, on the message boards which we have added to the competition pages of our websites. See below for more details.

Hopefully, whether with your regular partner, or one you find online, we'll see you at one of the events in the coming months. We have some great events in some of England's best tourist destinations, so you can make the most of the English summer, and also play some bridge.

As always, if you have any questions please contact the Competitions Department on 01296 317203/219 or at comps@ebu.co.uk. Entries can be made by calling this number, or through the members area of the website - www.ebu.co.uk/members.

We would always like to hear from pairs who are willing to act as standby at our events, particularly for Swiss Pairs and Swiss Teams competitions. See [here](#) for more information, or to volunteer please contact gordon@ebu.co.uk.



Spring Bank Holiday Congress 28th - 30th May, Stratford-upon-Avon

To bid or not to bid, that is the question at this congress in the home of the bard

A relaxed congress held in Stratford-upon-Avon with plenty of time to enjoy the town in the free mornings - or perhaps stay an extra night and go to the theatre.

Saturday sees the start of the Championship Pairs, with the top forty pairs playing in all-play-all finals on Sunday. The non-qualifiers play in a Swiss Pairs on Sunday, an event which is also open to those playing on Sunday only. Monday is a stratified Swiss Teams event. There is also a Really Easy Afternoon, for novice players, on Saturday afternoon.

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



Really Easy Afternoon 28th May, 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:

- [Richmond Bridge Club](#) - 1:30pm start
- [Spring Bank Holiday Congress](#) - 2:00pm start
- [First Class Bridge Academy, Billericay](#), 2:00pm start

More venues may be added in the coming weeks. 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.

LOOKING FOR A PARTNER/TEAM MATES?

If you want to find a partner, or team mates, for an EBU congress then try the message boards which we have added to the webpages of each congress. Scroll to the bottom of the event page, and you will find the message board.



You can either leave a message to say you are looking, or reply to someone else who is seeking a partner or team mates.

The message boards use the same host as those for the



The event takes place at the [Holiday Inn in central Stratford-upon-Avon](#). Set on the banks of the river the hotel has a lovely setting for a weekend of bridge. See the [event webpage](#) for room prices.

Summer Meeting so some of you will already be familiar with how to use them. They are hopefully straightforward to use, but [see here](#) if you need any help.

CHANGES OF VENUES

In the March newsletter we mentioned likely changes to some venues. We can confirm the following:

[Northern Midweek Congress](#), 9th - 11th August: now at the Cedar Court Hotel in Wakefield.

[The Seniors Congress](#), 4th - 6th November: now at Wokefield Park near Reading.

The Northern Year End Congress, 28th - 30th December: now back at the Hilton Hotel in Blackpool and will be called the [Blackpool Year End Congress](#).



[Autumn Congress](#), 14th - 16th October, remains at the Holiday Inn in Peterborough in 2016.



Southern Midweek Congress

14th - 16th June, Bournemouth

A Green Pointed midweek congress on the south coast

The congress includes a 3 session 'all play through' Championship Pairs event and a one day Swiss Teams event. Both events will be 'stratified' into three categories with extra Master Points available.

Entry fees are lower than for other congresses, although as a result there is no prize money.



The event takes place at the [Hallmark Hotel](#). Please book with Bridge Overseas on 0800 0346 246.

The [congress schedule](#) gives time to enjoy Bournemouth - the pier and centre of the town is less than a mile from the hotel - or the hotel's spa, swimming pool and leisure facilities.



English Riviera Congress

1st - 3rd July, Torquay

A three day congress overlooking Torquay Harbour

The congress features a one-day Swiss Teams event on the Friday, followed by a two-day Swiss Pairs event on the Saturday and Sunday. Both are fully Green Pointed.

Away from the table there is time in the schedule to enjoy the beaches and harbours of the English Riviera, venture into Dartmoor, or visit some of the area's tourist attractions.

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



The venue is the [Riviera Centre](#) in Torquay.

There are many accommodation options in the area. Some are available via the [English Riviera website](#).

GERARD FAULKNER SALVER - ENTRIES OPEN

Entries are open for the Seniors Knockout for the Gerard Faulkner Salver, and close on 3rd June. The event is open to those born in 1956 or earlier. A 'repechage system' is used, so every non-seeded team is guaranteed two matches. More details are on the [event webpage](#).

SUMMER MEETING 2016



Eastbourne Summer Seniors Congress

8th - 10th July, Eastbourne

**A long weekend of bridge in the popular resort
for those born in 1956 or earlier**

There is a two-day Championship Pairs event with two qualifying sessions on Friday being followed by three sessions of finals on Saturday.

There is a Swiss Pairs on the Saturday for those eliminated from the Championship Pairs on Friday, and for new entrants joining the event at this stage. On Sunday there is a Swiss Teams event.

All events are fully Green Pointed, save for the Championship Pairs qualifying rounds (Blue Points, but all qualifiers are guaranteed a Green Point award).

The event is supported by the Edith Kaplan Memorial Award of a £500 enhancement to the overall prize fund. There will be special category prizes for veterans pairs and teams (all members of the pair/team must be at least 70 years of age on the first day of play).

To be eligible to play in the congress, players must be born on or before 31st December 1956.

For more information on the congress please [visit our website](#).

The venue is the [Winter Garden](#) in the centre of Eastbourne.



Discounted parking is available for £2 for 24 hours.

For details of hotels, guesthouses and self-catering accommodation, visit any hotel booking website, or contact:

Eastbourne Information Centre,
Tel: 0871 663 0031
www.visiteastbourne.com

or Eastbourne Hospitality
Tel: 01323 726756

[The Summer Meeting](#) - in its new home in Eastbourne - is just over three months away. Be sure to start making your plans soon.

Some information on travel, hotels, etc, can be found at www.ebu.co.uk/eastbourne-pre-congress

The main congress programme is available [online](#), and we are taking entries. The price list is available [here](#) - and don't forget that those who entered the full congress in 2015 can receive up to £50 off the full congress in 2016.

[Really Easy Congress](#): This will run from the Tuesday to Thursday, with a free 'introductory day' on Monday. The congress combines competitions and lessons and is aimed at all levels of 'less experienced' players. The group will split for most of the sessions, with the content of the lessons, and speed of play, geared towards the ability of the participants in each group.



**NEW FOR
2016 -
GOLF &
BRIDGE**

There will be a combined golf and bridge competition in Eastbourne on 22nd August.

There will be a round of golf in the morning at Eastbourne Downs GC, and a bridge session in the afternoon. Entry is £35 including a light breakfast.

Please enter as soon as possible. Exact details will be dependent on the number of entries.



Other dates for your diary

7th May: [Garden Cities Trophy](#), Regional Finals
25th June: [Garden Cities Trophy](#), National Final
20th - 22nd May: Teltscher Trophy, Edinburgh
4th - 5th June: [Corwen Trophy](#), Birmingham
11th - 12th June: [Pachabo Cup](#), Birmingham
16th - 26th June: European Teams Championships, Budapest
23rd - 24th July: Green Point weekend
25th - 28th July: British Summer Sim Pairs
28th - 31st July: [Scarborough Summer Congress](#)

PLAYER OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

[Victory for the Allfrey team in the Spring Fours](#) means they now fill positions 2 to 7 on the Player of the Year competition leaderboard. Simon Cope still leads, aided by having reached the semi-finals of the Spring Fours, but is just two points clear.

Full leaderboard available [here](#).

The next points will be awarded at the Summer Meeting in the Swiss Pairs and Four Star Teams.

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

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