



# EBU Event Focus Issue 46: July 2016



Although we have other events in July, we are leading this month with the Summer Meeting in Eastbourne. Entries to date are higher than at the equivalent time for last year's event in Brighton so this should indicate it will be a great congress.

It is less than seven weeks until the start of the congress, so if you plan on attending please make your entry with us, and also plan your travel and accommodation - useful information and links to help with this are available on our [pre-congress information page](#).

As always, if you have any questions please contact the Competitions Department on 01296 317203/219 or at [comps@ebu.co.uk](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:Gordon@ebu.co.uk).

**THE SUMMER MEETING**  
Eastbourne, 19th - 28th August  
**New venue, cheaper prices,  
same great congress**

**3-day weekend challenge events**  
**One day events**  
**Really Easy Congress**  
**TD & EBU Score training**  
**Golf & bridge competition**

## **NATIONAL INTERCLUB KNOCKOUT (NICKO)** Entries now open

The NICKO is open to all EBU affiliated bridge clubs, and is very popular with over 250 teams entering annually. It is played as a knockout throughout, with the draw regionalised to reduce travelling.

Each club can enter an unlimited number of teams, so why not team up with your clubmates and take part?!

Entry forms can be downloaded from our website. Entries should be submitted by the affiliated Club Secretary, who should be satisfied of the credentials of the players.

Details of the qualification requirements are available [on the event webpage](#), but please be aware that **all participants must be members of the club they represent, should have been so for three months prior to the closing date for entries, and be listed on the club's membership list held by the EBU.** Please assist your club in complying with the regulations by ensuring you have paid your membership, and checking that it has been registered with the EBU.

**The closing date for entries is 15th September.** We hope you will take part.

**Weekend Challenge Events:** three-day events for those wanting an intensive weekend of bridge.

*Friday 19th - Sunday 21st:* Swiss Pairs Championship

*Friday 26th - Sunday 28th:* Four Stars Swiss Teams Championship

See [the event webpage](#) for more details.

**One Day Events:** a mixture of single session events on midweek afternoons and evening. Two-session Swiss Pairs events on Sunday 21st, Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th.

See [the event webpage](#) for more details.

**The Mercian Travel Seniors Congress:** Pairs and teams events on Monday to Thursday for those born in 1956 or earlier.

**Really Easy Congress:** Runs from Tuesday to Thursday, with a free 'introductory day' on Monday. It combines competitions and lessons for all levels of 'less experienced' players. See [the event webpage](#) for more details.

**Combined bridge and golf competition:** A round at Eastbourne Downs GC on Monday morning, and an individual bridge event in the afternoon. The results will be combined to give an overall winner. See more details [here](#).

The [main congress programme](#) and [price list](#) are available online.

**Don't forget that those who entered the full congress in 2015 can receive up to £50 off the full congress in 2016.**

The event takes place at the [Winter Garden](#).



There is no 'host' hotel - participants should make their own arrangements with one of the numerous hotels in the town. Information on hotels is at [www.ebu.co.uk/eastbourne-pre-congress](http://www.ebu.co.uk/eastbourne-pre-congress)

Parking is available for just £2 for 24 hours at [Trinity Trees NCP](#). See [here](#) for more information.



## Eastbourne Summer Seniors Congress

8th - 10th July, Eastbourne

**Still chance to enter**

**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 Green Pointed, except the Championship Pairs qualifying rounds (this is Blue Pointed, 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 31<sup>st</sup> December 1956.

## EBED SURVEY

English Bridge Education and Development are undertaking a survey as part of a research project in association with Stirling University. We hope you will not only take the survey, but also pass the link on to friends as family as they need as many respondents as possible - regardless of whether or not they play bridge.

**Take the survey [here](#).**

Once you have completed the survey you will have chance to enter a prize draw to win one of two £100 Amazon vouchers.

## CHANGES TO APPEALS

At the meeting of the Laws & Ethics Committee which took place on 25th May, changes were agreed to some existing terminology and penalties relating to appeals.

It was decided that the term "frivolous" when applied to appeals would be replaced by "without merit" (or "meritless" when used as an adjective).

After discussion it was agreed to introduce from 1st August 2016 the following revised arrangement with regard to penalties for appeals without merit: (*The change is shown in italics*)

A contestant or his captain may appeal for a review of any ruling made at his table by the Director. Any such appeal, if deemed to lack merit, may be the subject of a sanction. This sanction *will be both* of:

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

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



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](http://www.visiteastbourne.com)  
or Eastbourne Hospitality  
Tel: 01323 726756

Discounted parking is available for £2 for 24 hours.



## Scarborough Summer Congress

28th - 31st July, Scarborough

**Join us on the Yorkshire coast for an extended weekend of bridge**

The event starts with a 'Pre-Congress Pairs' on Thursday evening, and continues with a multiple teams event on Friday.

The highlight of the weekend is a three session Swiss Pairs event across Saturday and Sunday.

All events are fully Green Pointed, except for the Pre-Congress Pairs in which Blue Points are awarded.

The schedule includes time in the mornings for enjoying the wonderful North York Moors and coastal resorts.

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



The venue is the [Scarborough Spa](#).

There are numerous accommodation options in the area. Some are available via the [Discover Yorkshire website](#), or visit any hotel booking website.

## Overseas Congress - Lake Garda 5th - 11th October

**Double rooms still available.** Can be booked by couples of one bridge player, and one non-player. See the [event page](#) for more information.

- A score adjustment equivalent to twice the standard adjustment (e.g. 20% of a top, 6 IMPs or 1 VP).
- A financial deposit (£20 for pairs games, £30 for teams).

This was considered to be fairer as a financial penalty alone was believed to have differing impacts on different different players, whereas if combined with a score penalty it would be more equal in effect.

## LOOKING FOR A PARTNER/TEAM MATES?

If you want to find a partner, or team mates, for an EBU congress try the message boards which are on the webpages of each congress. Scroll to the foot of the page, and you will find the 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.

They are hopefully straightforward to use, but [see here](#) if you need any help.



## Northern Midweek Congress

*9th - 11th August, Wakefield*

**A new venue for this reduced price congress**

A fully Green-pointed midweek congress featuring a 3-session 'all play through' Championship Pairs event across Tuesday and Wednesday and a one-day Swiss Teams event on Thursday.

This congress has lower entry fees than other EBU events, although no prize money is awarded.

We hope that members in northern/midland counties will be keen to support this event.

Further information is available on the [event webpage](#).



The venue is the [Cedar Court Hotel](#), on the outskirts of Wakefield, with easy access to the M1.

Special rates are available for bookings made through Bridge Overseas. Please call them on 0800 0346 246.



## Other dates for your diary

23rd - 24th July: Green Point weekend, various counties

25th - 28th July: British Summer Sim Pairs

5th - 9th September: EBED Autumn Sim Pairs

3rd - 13th August: World Youth Team Championships, Italy

2nd - 17th September: World Bridge Games, Poland

9th - 18th September: [Guernsey Congress](#)

24th - 25th September: Green Point weekend, various counties

24th - 25th September: Crockfords finals (for those qualifying), Birmingham

1st - 2nd October: [Great Northern Swiss Pairs](#), Leeds

Thanks for reading.

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

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