



EBU Event Focus

Issue 59: The 2017 Summer Meeting

Dear

EBU

member

It's the final countdown... The 2017 Summer Meeting is just two weeks away so this newsletter is almost entirely devoted to giving you information on the congress. Three key pieces of further information are the [competition website](#), [the Players' Handbook](#), and [the pre-congress webpage](#).

I say, 'almost', because there is one other piece of news:

Star Grand Masters - new to the Master Point Scheme

A new addition has been made to the Master Point scheme, with Star Grand Master ranks introduced to bridge the gap between the existing ranks of Grand Master and Premier Grand Master.

It was recognised that whilst the requirements for these ranks are appropriate, the gap was too wide without there being interim levels which members could achieve as they strive to reach the highest rank. Star Grand Master was therefore introduced, with the member gaining an extra star for each additional 200 Green Points won.

A list of those who have been promoted due to the introduction of these new ranks is available [here](#).

Landmark promotions in the Master Point scheme are printed in every second issue of English Bridge, and a list of all promotions (sorted by county) can be seen on our website with a new list posted every month.

- [Master Point webpage](#)
- [Index of promotions](#)



The Summer Meeting *4th - 13th August* *Winter Garden, Eastbourne*

Weekend Challenge events

Friday 4th - Sunday 6th: Swiss Pairs Championship

This is played over 14 eight-board matches across four sessions. Master Points are at an enhanced level to reflect the status of the event.

Friday 11th - Sunday 13th: Four Stars Swiss Teams Championship

This is played over 10 eight-board matches across three sessions. The top 16 teams then compete in the round-robin finals, with the remaining teams playing four more matches in the Swiss Teams. Master Points are at an enhanced level to reflect the status of the event.

One Day Swiss Pairs ***Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th***

These are two-session, green-pointed events, with an additional award and prize for the pair with the best combined score across the two days.

Midweek One Day events

These are one-session events, and take place almost every day (not the first Friday), and include pairs and teams events.

The evening events are:

Monday: 'Play with the Experts' Pairs

Tuesday: Championship Pairs

Wednesday: Mixed Pivot Teams

Thursday: Mixed Pairs

There is an 'early-bird' start option for the Pairs Championship on Tuesday, and the Mixed Pairs on Thursday, to assist those who may wish to travel home after the event.

There is an open pairs each afternoon, plus a Point-a-Board Teams on the second Friday afternoon.

Seniors Congress

Monday 7th - Thursday 10th

For those born in 1957 or earlier.

Monday - Tuesday: Championship Pairs

Wednesday - Thursday: Swiss Teams

U26 Championships

Monday 7th - Tuesday 8th

Based on requests, this competition will now be over two days. Open to those under 26 on 31st December 2017.

Plus TD training, expert seminars, late night speedballs, and more.

[More details](#)

The Really Easy Congress

7th - 10th August

Winter Garden, Eastbourne

Part of the Summer Meeting, a mix of competitions & lessons for all levels of novice players

Monday 7th August

A **free** introductory day for those who want to find their feet, or knock off any rust.

Tuesday 8th to Thursday 10th August

The main events, with a mixture of lessons and competitions, including a two-session Swiss Pairs on Thursday.

The congress is aimed at those who:

- ♥ have recently learned to play
- ♣ are wanting to make a comeback to competitive bridge
- ♦ play regularly but aren't ready for the events in the Summer Meeting

All players should have little/no experience of green-point events, and be below the rank of Master and lower than a Jack on the NGS. Higher ranked/more experienced players should enter competitions in the main congress.

This year there will not be a 'beginners group' (previously called the 'First Step' group) as declining numbers have made it unviable. The congress hosts will, however, do their best to accommodate the more inexperienced players. Such players may wish to attend on Monday before committing to

the other days – bookings for the remaining sessions can be made on Monday evening.

You can come as a partnership, or individuals – partners will be found.

[More details](#)

Players' Handbook

The Players' Handbook, including all the information about the congress (formats, prize structures, etc) is available to download [here](#).



Entries

If it all possible, please enter in advance and the sooner the better - it really does help us with our planning. Please contact the Competitions Department on 01296 317203/219 or at comps@ebu.co.uk, or enter through the members area of the website - www.ebu.co.uk/members.

If you don't get chance to enter in advance then do please still come. We'd be delighted to take your entry on the day - just come and see us at the reception desk in the Floral Hall of the Winter Garden.

Travel and accommodation

Some useful links for travel companies, hotels, etc, can be found on [the pre-congress webpage](#). Unlike when the congress was in Brighton, where late-booking was prohibitively expensive, there seems to still be a decent number of options available in Eastbourne at sensible prices. And of course, as **parking is available for just £2.50 a day**, you could stay further afield if you wish, and drive in to the town each day.

Please note: Southern Rail did at one point announce that some of their workers would strike on 4th August. They have since said [this has been called off](#), but please keep in mind that it may be reinstated at short notice, and have a contingency plan in mind in case it's required.

Thanks for reading. We look forward to seeing you in Eastbourne.

This email has been sent to EBU members who have recently played in an EBU organised event. This email was sent to `peter.stockdale@ebu.co.uk`. To unsubscribe from future Event Focus newsletters [Unsubscribe here](#). Please note this does not affect your general preferences for emails from the EBU.

Read online at

<https://www.ebu.co.uk/dynamic/sendy/w/keSVq7bLRTHS8923g31avpsg>



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