



## ***EBU Event Focus***

### ***Issue 76: December 2018***

Dear EBU member

After a lull in November, there is again an increase in activity in the run up to Christmas and the end of the year. For all bridge players Christmas doesn't just mean turkey and tinsel, but also trumps and transfers, as the festive period gives plenty of chance to play.

If your usual partner or team mates are unavailable for any EBU congress you don't need to miss out. There is a message board on each congress webpage you can use to try to make contact with others who are seeking someone for that event. Don't be stuck at home over Christmas if you'd rather be playing bridge - post your details, or respond to someone else, and find a game for the Year End Congresses.

If you wish to enter one of the Year End Congresses in London or Blackpool please make every effort to do so in advance of the office closing for Christmas, although you can enter at the venue in London (though this will carry a £2 surcharge). The office is open to take entries for the Year End Congresses until 5pm on Friday 21st - please call 01296 317203/219 or email [comps@ebu.co.uk](mailto:comps@ebu.co.uk), or enter through My EBU. We will re-open at 9am on Wednesday 2nd January.

If you are unable to make it to an event or just want to play a couple of extra games of bridge while you are there, Funbridge has a special free EBU online game with Master Points on New Year's Day, plus a bonus game on Boxing Day. See below for more details.

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all the EBU Staff.**

As always, if you have any queries about any of the events featured here then please don't hesitate to contact the Competitions Department on [01296 317203](tel:01296317203)/219 or at [comps@ebu.co.uk](mailto:comps@ebu.co.uk). Entries can be made by calling this number, or through My EBU, the members area of the website - [www.ebu.co.uk/members](http://www.ebu.co.uk/members).

## Year End Congress, London

*27th - 30th December*

*Royal National Hotel, Russell Square*

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Join us for four days of festive bridge in the capital.

Thurs 27th - Fri 28th: Stratified Swiss Pairs

Fri 28th: Jack High Swiss Pairs\*

Sat 29th: Mixed or Open Pairs

Sun 30th: Stratified Swiss Teams

\* - a new competition, with a reduced entry fee, for players no higher than Jack on the NGS.

Accommodation packages are available at the venue. See the website for details.

[More details](#)



## National Point-a-Board Teams

*19th - 20th January*

*Young Chelsea BC, London*

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This competition is played exclusively on the point-a-board (BAM) format.

Saturday: Qualifying

Sunday: a main final for the top teams, and a consolation final for non-qualifiers.

## Blackpool Year End Congress

*28th - 30th December*

*Blackpool Conference Centre & Spa*

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We round off bridge in 2018 back on the Lancashire Coast.

Fri 28th: Mixed or Open Pairs

Fri 28th - Sat 29th: Stratified Swiss Pairs

Sun 30th: Stratified Swiss Teams

The venue is the same as previous years, but has been re-named. Accommodation packages are available at the venue. See the website for details.

[More details](#)

Master Points will be awarded at a **50% enhanced rate** in the qualifier and main final.

The competition is part of the **Player of the Year Championship**.

[A short guide to Point-a-Board matches](#)

[David Gold's guide to the tactics of PAB](#)

[Brian Senior - the different tactics for Point-a-Board, IMPs and Match Points](#)

[More details](#)

## Harrogate Congress

*8th - 10th February*  
*Cairn Hotel, Harrogate*

A popular long weekend of bridge, organised by Yorkshire CBA on behalf of the EBU. **Please make entries directly with the YCBA.** Please see [the YCBA website](#) for more details and an entry form.

Friday afternoon - Mixed & Open Pairs

Friday afternoon - Improvers Pairs

Friday evening & Saturday - three session Swiss Pairs

Sunday - two session Swiss Teams

Entry to the Full Congress or Swiss Pairs includes a two course buffet supper on Saturday.

[More details](#)



## EBU ONLINE GAMES AT CHRISTMAS

**PLAY FOR FREE ON NEW YEAR'S DAY**  
A great chance to give the games a try

**PLUS A BONUS GAME ON BOXING DAY**

In addition to the usual games on Saturdays, Sundays, Tuesdays & Thursdays  
22nd, 23rd, 25th, 27th, 29th & 30th

You can play whenever you want between midnight and 10pm, restarting as often as needed, so you can fit it in around festivities.

**More info at [www.ebu.co.uk/funbridge](http://www.ebu.co.uk/funbridge)**



## Athens Congress

30th January - 5th February  
Wyndham Grand, Athens

Join us for a smashing congress in Greece.

It will be held at the Wyndham Grand in the centre of Athens, near the Acropolis and Parthenon.

To attend you must book your accommodation through Bridge Overseas. For more details, or to make a reservation, please see [here](#), or call 08000 346246.

The Congress includes Pairs and Teams competitions, with Green Pointed Swiss competitions to start and finish the event.

[More details](#)

## Online Knockout Teams

Entries close 14th January

A knockout competition for teams of four, with all matches played online.

The competition is open to teams from all home nations, so why not involve your friends from over the border?!

There is a plate competition for those defeated in early rounds, so everyone is guaranteed two matches.

Juniors receive half-price entry on a pro-rata basis.

Green Points are awarded in the main competition, and Blue Points in the Plate competition.

[More details](#)

## Sicily Congress

8th - 14th October 2019

Atahotel, Naxos Beach

Join us for some autumn sunshine on the Italian island of Sicily.

It will be held at the Atahotel Naxos Beach, a coastal resort in a stunning location in the shadow of Mount Etna.

To attend you must book your accommodation through Bridge Overseas. For more details, or to make a reservation, please see [here](#), or call 08000 346246.

The Congress includes Pairs and Teams competitions, with Green Pointed Swiss competitions to start and finish the event.

[More details](#)

## Other dates for your diary

[8 - 9 Dec](#)



[European Mixed Teams Trials](#): playoff - London

[14 - 16 Dec](#)



[Junior Channel Trophy](#) - Lille, France

[15 - 16 Dec](#)



[Seniors Trials for the Teltscher Trophy](#)

[4 - 6 Jan](#)



[Camrose Trophy](#), 1st Weekend - Wales

[4 - 6 Jan](#)

[Midland Counties Congress](#) - Solihull

[11 - 13 Jan  
& 1 - 3 Feb](#)



[Lady Milne Pre-Trials & Trial Final](#) - London

[14 - 17 Jan](#)

[British Winter Sim Pairs](#)

[4 - 7 Feb](#)

[Bridge England Sim Pairs](#)

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](mailto: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/5EVQfGQVI8B763f4CR4Bci5g>



English Bridge Union

[01296 317203/219](tel:01296317203)

[comps@ebu.co.uk](mailto:comps@ebu.co.uk)