



# ***EBU Event Focus***

## ***February 2021***

Dear EBU member

The first months of the year have a great mixture of events coming up. Details for a few events are found below.

### **Easter Online Congress**

Due to Covid, the usual Easter Congresses in London and York will not be taking place face-to-face this year. Instead we will be running an online Easter Congress, held on RealBridge. The online congress will be held over the four days of the Easter Weekend, as usual.

The **Championship Pairs** will take place as a 'stratified' event scored across the field. All pairs will play two sessions on Friday and three sessions on Saturday. There will be **Swiss Teams**, also stratified, taking place on Sunday as a two-session event with seven 7-board matches in all. Then **Swiss Pairs** on Monday - open to all, with seven 7-board matches. The Easter Congress will also include **9 High Improvers Pairs** and **9 High Improvers Teams** on BBO. For full details visit the [event webpage](#).

Below, you will also find details of the upcoming Harrogate Congress (Renamed the Yorkshire Spring Congress Online), Masters Pairs, National Pairs and Portland Pairs.

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 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).

### **Harrogate Congress**

*13th - 14th February*

*Bridge Base Online*

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Due to Covid, this year the congress will take place online via BridgeBaseOnline on 13th - 14th February, and is again being run by the Yorkshire Contract Bridge Association on behalf of the EBU. The congress has been renamed the Yorkshire Spring Congress Online, it will incorporate Improvers events along with Swiss Pairs and Teams events. Improvers must be County Master or below and must be "Public Master Points".

The schedule is:

Saturday - Swiss Pairs & 9 High Pairs

Sunday - Swiss Teams

Unfortunately, there will be no buffet meal provided, but there will be a 40 minutes lunch break on both days.

Please enter with Yorkshire CBA, and not with the EBU. Please complete the below editable pdf forms and return to YCBA.

[More details](#)

**National Pairs**  
*Regional Heats: 21st March*  
*Various Locations*

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**Masters Pairs**  
*28th February*  
*Various Locations*

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The Masters Pairs is a two-session competition exclusively for players below the rank of Regional Master, which includes: Local Masters, Club Masters, Area Masters, District Masters, County Masters, Masters, Advanced Masters, Star Masters, Tournament Masters or Premier Masters.

It will be held at multiple venues around the country, and scored nationally to give overall results. The competition therefore gives an opportunity for less experienced players to play in a national event within the familiar environment of their own club, and allows them to play against players of their standard rather than entering an event with an 'open' field. Any club that wishes will be allowed to run a heat, though smaller clubs might wish to combine with others to ensure a suitably-sized field.

[More details](#)

## Portland Pairs

*28th March*

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Restructuring the competition in 2020

Last year it was decided to base the first stage of the competition on the same model as the Masters Pairs, i.e. with heats in clubs, with the Regional trophies still being awarded. Clubs are assigned to regions based on their geographical location, with an attempt to try to have even sized regions as far as possible.

Since the 2020 regional heats took place but the final did not, any pair who was in the top 50 last year will be allowed to enter the final this year without having to qualify again, providing they do so before the regional heats take place. This may lead to us having a larger than usual final with variations in format as appropriate.

[More details](#)

This year the Portland Pairs will be run by the EBU as a single two-session event on RealBridge with an entry fee of £30 per player, rather than having heats in clubs around the country. We would welcome clubs publicising this, which is our national Mixed Pairs Championship, a unique and popular event in our calendar. Entries should be made through My EBU.

[More details](#)

### **EasterOnline Congress** 2nd - 5th April RealBridge and BBO

Due to Covid, the usual Easter Congresses in London and York will not be taking place face-to-face this year. Instead we will be running an online Easter Congress, held on RealBridge. The online congress will be held over the four days of the Easter Weekend, as usual.

[More details](#)

### **Ranked Masters Pairs** 27th - 28th February

This is a group of pairs championships for which an appropriate EBU Master Point Rank is needed to enter. The rank must be attained by virtue of points earned by 1st January 2021, and players who hold unregistered points at that date, which would promote them to a higher rank, may only compete at the higher rank. Players currently or previously based overseas for any substantial period of their bridge playing career should make a special application for a national rank to be afforded them solely for the purpose of

participating in this particular event.

## Autumn Overseas Congress

6th - 13th October  
Side, Turkey

[More details](#)

Join us in the beautiful city of Side, on the southern Mediterranean coast of Turkey, close to Antalya. Further details will be available shortly.

At this time, First for Bridge ask you not to book your flights until given confirmation to do so. Generally there is a very good choice of regional flights to Antalya at low prices at this time of year.

First For Bridge currently have flexible booking, if you are unable to attend or the congress is cancelled due to covid, you can move your deposit to any other First for Bridge holiday. And most importantly your monies are fully protected by ABTA.

[More details](#)

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