



Simultaneous Pairs 2019: An overview

For the 2019 programme of simultaneous pairs events, this overview is intended to highlight the features of each of the events, and some basic information on taking part.

All clubs can participate in these competitions – including unaffiliated English clubs though they will pay a surcharge in all bar the EBED Sims (there is no surcharge for any clubs in those events).

The Events

There are a number of different events covered under the umbrella of 'EBU Sims', as outlined below.

January	British Winter Sim Pairs	May	EBED Spring Sim Pairs
February	Bridge England Sim Pairs	July	British Summer Sim Pairs
March	Club Stratified Sim Pairs	September	EBED Autumn Sim Pairs
April	British Spring Sim Pairs	October	British Autumn Sim Pairs

EBED Spring Simultaneous Pairs

EBED Autumn Simultaneous Pairs

Proceeds from these events go to the charity, English Bridge Education & Development.



EBED is committed to encouraging more people to take up bridge, especially young people, as well as building the infrastructure which will make that aim a reality. We know that Sims in aid of charity are popular, so we hope this event will be particularly well supported as the entry fees will go to supporting a charity dedicated to the development of bridge in England.

The events are organised by the EBU on behalf of EBED.

EBED Spring Pairs – Monday 13th to Thursday 17th May 2019

EBED Autumn Pairs – Monday 2nd to Friday 6th September 2019

British Simultaneous Pairs

These are the Sims that were previously the BGB Simultaneous Pairs, and include clubs from Scotland and Wales.

British Winter Pairs – Monday 14th to Thursday 17th January 2019

British Spring Pairs – Monday 1st to Thursday 4th April 2019

British Summer Pairs – Monday 22nd to Thursday 25th July 2019

British Autumn Pairs – Monday 7th to Thursday 10th October 2019

Bridge England Simultaneous Pairs

This aims to raise funds to support, and aid performance in, our international teams.

In 2019 England will be represented at the World Championships in China by the Open, Women's, and Senior teams, all of which qualified from the 2018 European Championships. England's four junior teams will compete at the European Youth Teams Championships, and all England's teams will compete in their specific competition for the teams of the 'home nations'.

Bridge England Simultaneous Pairs – Monday 4th to Thursday 7th February 2019

The same deals will be played on Monday and Tuesday, and the same deals on Wednesday and Thursday. This gives more chance to play whilst ensuring a large field for both competitions. These multi-day competitions require a slight change to the registration and score-submission process – please see below for details.

Club Stratified Pairs

In this event, as well as an overall ranking, the results are stratified into four categories. It means each pair can compare their scores to those of players of a comparable ranking. There is a reduced entry fee – 50p per person less than the other events – so it is a great event for those clubs trying a Sim Pairs for the first time.

Stratification

A	One or both members of the pair are at, or above, 'Tournament Master'
B	Both members of the pair are below 'Tournament Master'
C	Both members of the pair are below 'Star Master'
D	Both members of the pair are below 'District Master'

Blue points and local points will be awarded to the top third of the overall ranking list. In addition, the top third of each strat will get blue points and local points. Anyone winning points from their overall ranking, and from their stratification, you will only get the higher of the awards rather than two lots of points.

Club Stratified Pairs – Monday 11th to Thursday 14th March 2018

Entry fees

For 2019 the entry fees are frozen at 2018 rates - £2.80 per player, with the exception of the Club Stratified pairs, which is a reduced rate of £2.30 per player. The usual Universal Membership Subscription payment also applies. Any unaffiliated clubs participating in the British, Bridge England, or Club Stratified Sims pairs will be charged a 50p surcharge per player. There is no surcharge for entries in the EBED Sims events.

Other events

The EBU also hosts sims events on behalf of clubs and counties. These will be listed on the [EBU sims webpage](#). Details of the 'sims hosting service' offered by the EBU are [here](#) – if your club or county wants to hold a Sim Pairs then get in touch with us to find out how we can help and make the process easy for you.

The EBU is not involved in the organisation of other sims events which take place. Please contact the organisers for more information on those events. The EBU supports the Children in Need Simultaneous Pairs in November by making the relevant club session exempt from a Universal Membership Subscription charge.

All details given below apply to EBU sim pairs, but not necessarily to 'other events' listed above.

Organisation

Clubs may play on any, or all days, of the competition (with the exception of the Bridge England Sim Pairs – you may only play on Monday or Tuesday, and/or on Wednesday or Thursdays) but only one session per club, per day, is permitted.

Clubs should register online, via [My EBU](#) - the Members Area of the EBU website. You can register now for all events in 2019 and we would encourage them to do so, so that members can put the dates in their diaries. **Bridge England Sim Pairs** – if you wish to play on Monday then enter for Tuesday but play the hands on Monday; if you wish to play on Wednesday then enter for Thursday but play the hands on Wednesday.

If entries are received more than two weeks prior to the event a poster will be emailed to the club, which can be personalised, and then displayed at the club. It will include information on how participants can access results and hand records after the event

When the club is registered, the whoever has been nominated by the club will be able to download all necessary files directly from their own personal page of [My EBU](#), without any need to contact the EBU. These files are available approximately a month before the event.

Clubs will of course submit their results electronically, but this will be done as part of the normal submission process – there is no need to submit a Sim Pairs file independently. Results are processed automatically so a prompt submission of the file will ensure that the participants at the club will get to see their national results as quickly as possible!

Bridge England Sim Pairs – if you play on Monday then you will not be able to submit the results until Tuesday evening, so that anyone playing on Tuesday will not be able to see the results for each board before they play. Likewise, for the same reasons, please do not post the results on your club’s webpage. If you play on Wednesday do not share the results until Thursday evening.

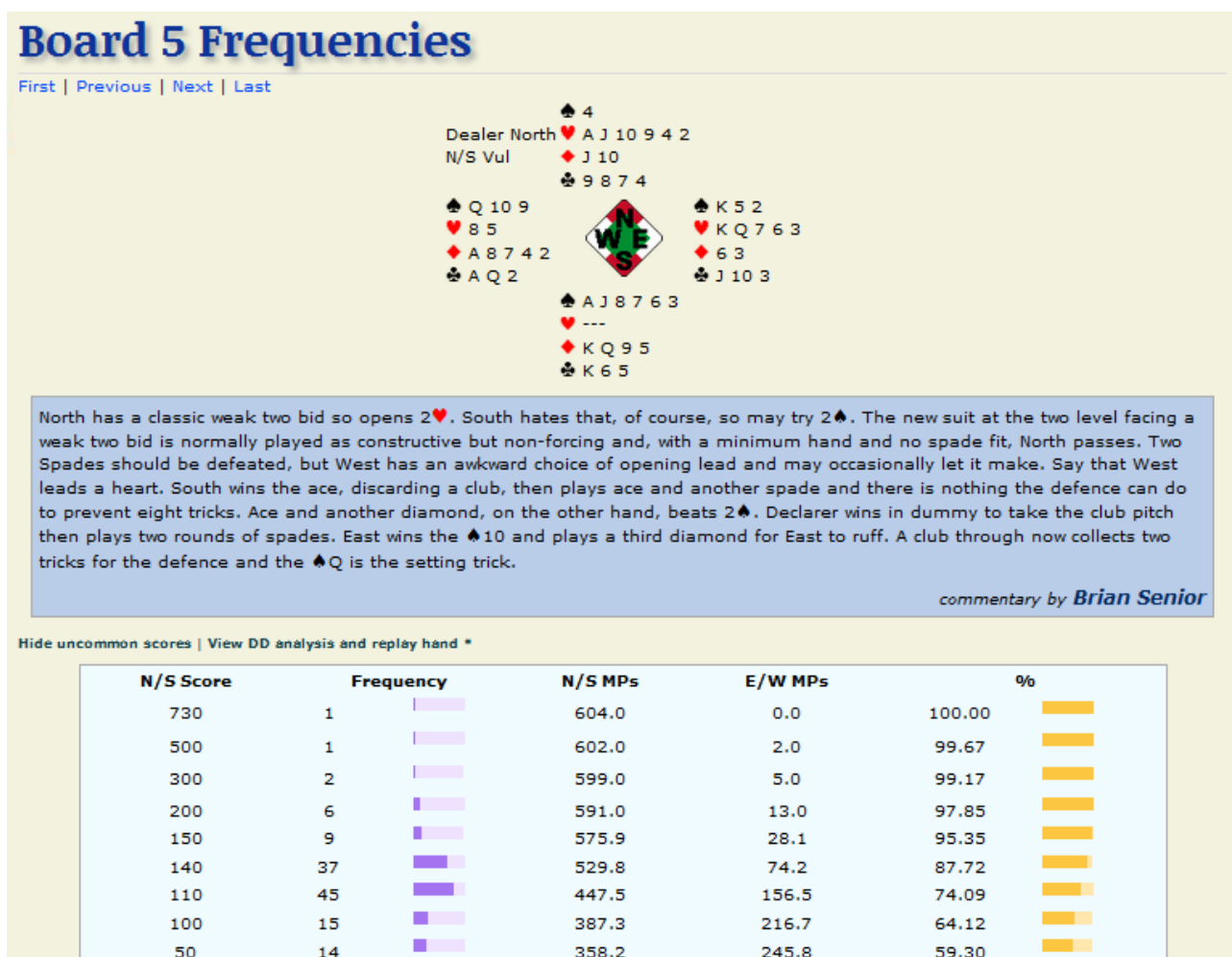
Clubs will be charged automatically, and the amount will be added to their monthly or bi-monthly P2P invoice. If the club pays this by direct debit, there’s no need to lift a finger!

As well as deal files, travellers and curtain cards, commentaries on the hands will be available to be downloaded by the nominated member via [My EBU](#). They will also be available online to be viewed or downloaded by the players after the event. 36 hands are provided, so it covers all movements. Please be aware that, from 1st January 2016, only sessions in which a pair plays 70% of the boards in use are eligible for Master Points. [See here](#) for more details and for suggested movements to help accommodate this requirement.

More information on entering, and how to run a heat, can be found [here](#). All past results, current results, instructions and conditions of contest are found at <http://www.ebu.co.uk/sims/>.

Results

All the results will appear online and are updated as soon as any results are submitted. The results service is, we believe, excellent, with a breakdown of score frequency and matchpoint percentage, along with the hands, commentary and double dummy analysis feature. Please see the screenshot below for an example of the results service.



The Hands

We sometimes receive comments that some members are deterred from entering sims events because they believe the hands are 'rigged' and are intentionally made to include abnormal distributions and awkward situations that they do not enjoy. **This is not the case.**

The hands are computer dealt, and each set is used exactly as dealt by the dealing program (we use Big Deal for this). There is no manipulation of the hands, nor do we deal 100 and pick the 'strangest' 36. They are as natural as those that would be dealt (assuming adequate shuffling) at any regular club night. So whilst there may be a 5-0 split, or an eight card suit, they are no more likely in these events than in any other event that has properly random hands. Some players who are used to hand-dealing, and do not shuffle well enough, may find these hands to be more 'lively' than they are used to, but that is not because these hands are fixed, but because the hands they deal for themselves are not properly random.

We therefore believe that the hands can be enjoyed by anyone, regardless of their level of play.

Commentaries

For every event there is a hand commentary available. These are written by experts, giving their own opinions on the hands, and are intended to be both entertaining and educational. As such they offer a value-for-money lesson, particularly as they deal with boards which the reader played, and not with hypothetical scenarios – it is not so much "what would you do?" but "what did you do?". They are intended to cater for all ability levels, so we believe they will be interesting and useful for all competitors.

The commentaries are available electronically, and can be downloaded free of charge immediately following the event. If preferred, they can be posted to the club for a cost of £4 per pack of 10 booklets.

There is also a double dummy analysis feature so you can see what you could, or should, have done, and where your chosen line went wrong.

Master Points

Master Points are awarded so it is therefore an excellent opportunity for those who are seeking a promotion to try to earn a few hundred more. In addition to the local points issued by the club, the leading pairs nationally will also be awarded **Blue Points**. You can find out more about Blue Points at <http://www.ebu.co.uk/documents/laws-and-ethics/licensing/blue-points.pdf>

Cash Prize Structure

In response to feedback received from clubs – both those who take part in the Sim Pairs, and those who don't – there has been a change to the prize structure for 2019. Rather than giving cash prizes to those randomly selected, we have distributed the prize more evenly across the overall winners in each competition.

Heat winners: There will no longer be a prize draw for the heat winners from each club. The budget for these prizes has been added to that for the overall winners.

Overall winners: The overall winners of all Simultaneous Pairs events hosted by the English Bridge Union will each receive a cash prize of **£100 per pair**. This is an increase from £50 in 2018.

The winners of the Bridge England Sims and the Club Stratified Sims will receive this prize – these events were previously excluded from the prizes.

Host clubs: Every club which enters a heat of any EBU organised event, excluding any participating unaffiliated English clubs, will be included in a random draw. One 'entry' in the draw is awarded for every ten tables (or part thereof) which take part in any single heat. Please see overleaf for an example. The draw will be made at the AGM in November. These aspects are unchanged from 2018.

3 clubs will be drawn from those which have entered the EBED Sims, and 7 from those entering the other sims. Each receive £250. There is no longer a larger first prize and smaller second, third and runners-up prizes – the prize fund has been evenly distributed across all prizes.

This prize draw allows the EBU to redistribute some of the proceeds back to the clubs which have participated, and it is hoped it will be reinvested in providing services and activities for its members, or supporting a local cause of its choosing.

Value for Money

We believe that these Sim Pairs are good value for money. It is an opportunity for members to enter a national competition, with expert analysis of the hands, a chance to earn lots of Master Points and Blue Points, and offers the opportunity for their club and chosen charity to receive a cash donation. This is all without needing to leave the comfort of their home club.

We hope you agree.

If you have any queries don't hesitate to contact us, otherwise we look forward to receiving your club's entry.

English Bridge Union Tel. 01296 317200 www.ebu.co.uk