



YEAR END ONLINE CONGRESS 2020

Played on RealBridge

27th to 30th December 2020

featuring

the Swiss Pairs Championship for the Philip Broke Trophy
the Mixed Pairs Championship for the Durran-Weissberger Trophy
Open Pairs for the Rixi Markus Trophy
the Swiss Teams Championship for the Grattan Endicott Bowl

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1 Programme

December 27th	11:30am – 2:45pm	Stratified Swiss Pairs , session 1 (3 x 8-board matches)
	3:45pm – 7:00pm	Stratified Swiss Pairs , session 1 (3 x 8-board matches)
December 28th	11:30am – 2:45pm	Stratified Swiss Pairs , session 3 (3 x 8-board matches)
	11:30pm – 2:15pm	Jack High Swiss Pairs , session 1 (3 x 6-board matches)
	3:15pm – 6:00pm	Jack High Swiss Pairs , session 2 (3 x 6-board matches)
	3:45pm – 7:00pm	Stratified Swiss Pairs , session 4 (3 x 8-board matches)
December 29th	11:30am – 3:00pm	Mixed and Open Pairs , session 1
	4:00pm – 7:20pm	Mixed and Open Pairs , session 2
December 30th	11:30am – 2:30pm	Stratified Swiss Teams , session 1 (3 x 7-board matches)
	3:30pm – 7:20pm	Stratified Swiss Teams , session 2 (4 x 7-board matches)

2 Swiss Pairs Championship

for the Philip Broke Trophy – holders Alex Hydes & Lynton Stock

This two-day-Swiss event is stratified, see *Stratification*.

Assignments are on a current round basis.

2.1 Starting instructions

Pairs will be notified in advance by email.

2.2 Prizes:

All prizes are quoted in terms of £ per pair. There will be separate prizes for overall ranking, for the 'B' and 'C' combined list and for the 'C' list alone. Prizes will depend on entries.

2.3 Master Point awards (Swiss Pairs)

0.28 Green Point per match won (0.14 for a draw). Bonus awards based on final ranking will be awarded to the top quarter of the field.

1st place 7.00 Green Points, last award receiving position 0.50;

in the B ranking, 1st place 3.50, last award 0.25;

in the C ranking, 1st place 1.75, last place 0.13;

awards for intermediate places in each list in accordance with the standard EBU competition formula.

3 Stratification

3.1 Categories

'A': a Premier Life Master or above;

'B': a Premier Regional Master or above but not a Premier Life Master or above;

'C': not a Premier Regional Master or above.

There are exceptions/exemptions, see

<https://www.ebu.co.uk/competitions/stratifications>, in particular

<https://www.ebu.co.uk/documents/official-documents/Stratification-2019.pdf>

3.2 Swiss Pairs

The stratification category for a pair is the higher of the categories of the two players.

3.3 Swiss Teams

- 'A': any player is a Grand Master or above,
or has the NGS grade of 'Ace',
or is in the Gold-Point top 60;
or two players are Premier Life Masters ('A' but not 'Ace');
- 'B': at least two members of the team are 'B' or one is a Premier Life Master;
- 'C': at most one player is 'B' and no 'A'.

4 Jack High Swiss Pairs

2019 winners: Virginia Crouch & Myra Tipping

This event is aimed at club players who are interested in taking the first steps into congress bridge without jumping straight into a major congress event. The competition is sponsored by First for Bridge – we thank them for their donation of prizes.

In order to qualify to play in this event, you must have an NGS of no higher than 'Jack' at the time of entering. We reserve the right to decline entries from those who may meet the NGS requirements, but have significant tournament experience and are not 'congress-novices'. The event will be stratified too so that there are extra Master Points and an extra prize available for pairs of players both ranked '9' or lower.

Only level 2 agreements are permitted.

The format will be six 6-board matches with a break after three matches.

4.1 Starting instructions:

Pairs will be notified in advance by email.

4.2 Prizes

Prizes based on entries.

4.3 Master Points

0.21 Green Point for each match won (0.11 for a draw), plus awards based on final ranking as follows:

Awards to the top quarter of the field overall: top award of 2.00, minimum award of 0.50.

Awards to the top one-sixth of the 'nine and below' pairs: top award of 1.00, minimum award of 0.25.

Awards for intermediate places in both categories are in accordance with the standard EBU congress formula.

5 Mixed Pairs

for the Durran-Weissberger Trophy – holders Kevin Castner & Marusa Gold

A match-pointed pairs event, scored across the mixed field, comprising two sessions of about 26 boards per session.

5.1 Starting instructions:

Pairs will be notified in advance by email.

5.2 Prizes:

To the leading pairs, depending on entries.

5.3 Master point awards:

Green Point awards to the top half of the field. 1st place 5.00 Green Points, last award receiving position 1.00; awards for intermediate places in accordance with the standard EBU competition formula.

6 Open Pairs

for the Rixi Markus Trophy – holders Gunnar Hallberg & Phil King

A match-pointed pairs event, scored across the field comprising two sessions of about 26 boards per session.

6.1.1 Starting instructions:

Pairs will be notified in advance by email.

6.1.2 Prizes:

To the leading pairs, depending on entries.

The leading Men's Pair and leading Women's Pair are guaranteed a prize, but prizes are not cumulative.

6.1.3 Master Point awards:

Green Point awards to the top half of the field. 1st place 4.00 Green Points, last award receiving position 1.00; awards for intermediate places in accordance with the standard EBU competition formula.

7 Swiss Teams Championship

*for the Grattan Endicott Bowl – holders:
Andrew Black, David Gold, Andrew McIntosh, Phil King*

This one-day event is stratified, see above *Stratification*.

Three matches of 7 boards will be played in the first session. Four matches of 7 boards will be played in the second session.

7.1 Starting instructions:

Players will be notified in advance by email.

7.2 Prizes:

All prizes are quoted in terms of £ per team. There will be prizes for the overall ranking, and for the 'B' and 'C' list combined, and for 'C' list alone.

Prizes are limited to one prize per team, which shall be the highest one available to them. Any prize so released will be awarded to the next team in line in the appropriate category.

7.3 Master Point awards

0.25 Green Point per match won (0.13 for a draw), with bonus ranking awards as follows:

Main ranking list (all three categories combined): a top award of 6.00 Green Points, with a minimum of 0.50.

Category 'B' and 'C' combined: a top award of 3.00 Green Points with a minimum of 0.25.

Category 'C' only: a top award of 1.50 Green Points, with a minimum of 0.13.

Awards extend to one-fifth of the field on each such list. Awards for intermediate places on each stratified list will be in accordance with the standard EBU congress formula.

8 General Information

8.1 Prizes

All prizes will be automatically credited to the member's EBU account, and may be redeemed at any time on application to the EBU. The prize values are subject to alteration should the actual entry.

8.2 System Cards

Level 4 agreements are permitted in all of the main congress events. You are required to have a completed system cards (EBU 20B) and you should exchange a link to the card with your opponents at the start of each round.

Competitions in this event are at most Level 4, so you may **only** use EBU system cards; not WBF system cards, which are **only** permitted in Level 5 events.

You can email your system cards to EBUConventionCards@gmail.com in advance, to receive an online link that you can provide to your opponents during the congress.

<https://www.ebu.co.uk/node/4003>

Please send systems cards to EBUConventionCards@gmail.com before 23:59 on Christmas Day, so the final processing can be done before the congress.

8.3 Split Ties

A tie for first place will be split in accordance with standard EBU procedures solely in order to determine the trophy winners of a particular tournament. Any tied places share equally any Master Point or prize award which may be due, even if the tie has been split as outlined above.

8.4 Special circumstances

General EBU regulations apply in relation to any matter not detailed in these conditions (e.g. protest time). However, any conditions, whether they be general or specific to this competition as set out in this programme, may be varied upon the special instruction of the Tournament Director in charge in order to accommodate any unforeseen circumstance and in order to facilitate the smooth running of this Congress.

8.5 Appeals and protests

Any player who has received a Tournament Director's ruling, and who believes that a review of that ruling should be considered (i.e. is contemplating lodging an appeal), is encouraged to consult a neutral adviser on the subject before proceeding with the appeal.

Appeals Committees have been instructed to keep deposits and issue scoring penalties should they determine that an appeal is without merit.

8.6 Best Behaviour at Bridge

Please be nice to your partner, be pleasant to your opponents and be polite to the Tournament Directors. Otherwise you may well be given a Disciplinary Penalty!

8.7 Telephones and other electrical devices

Do not use a phone or other communication device, except for emergencies.

9 RealBridge

9.1 Instructions

RealBridge uses computer video and audio for communication between players. Player can and should test their video/audio by logging into the system in advance.

During a session. if you have problems with audio/video, you should continue to play using text until you have time to try to sort it out, rather than delaying play.

It may be necessary to refresh the video feed every hour or so: this can be done (without logging out) by clicking the refresh button on your name bar.

9.2 Procedures

Please remember that your opponents will have sight of you whenever you are logged in at a table and always act accordingly – opponents can hear and see what is going on in the room around you.

9.2.1 Alerting/Announcing/Explaining

RealBridge has different modes of operations: open table v. screen mode, partner-alerting v. self-alerting, verbal v. text explanations. Different rules for alerting/announcing/explaining are appropriate for different modes of operation.

This event will be in open-table mode with self-alerting and written explanations. Follow-up questions can be to the player who made the call (via private chat) or verbally to the opponents. Note: the partner of the player who made the call will not see the written explanation.

Calls are alerted by the player making the call, the alert is made by clicking the alert strip. Alert calls that would be alerted or announced under EBU (Blue Book) regulations and provide a written explanation when making the call.

The face-to-face regulations for alerting calls above 3NT apply – suit bids above 3NT are not alerted after the first round.

9.2.2 Calling the TD

When the TD is called only the player who called the TD should speak to the TD. The TD can then ask questions of the different players, before instructing the table how to proceed.

If the TD appears at the table and you did not call the TD, please wait to be asked to speak – so that the table does not all speak at once.

9.2.3 Online Regulations

The Sky-Blue Book applies to players consulting their own system card and other notes and to UNDOs. UNDOs are allowed in the auction but not in the play.

RealBridge does not disable requests for UNDOs in the play. If a player requests an UNDO in the play, the opponents should just reject the request.



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