



(Winter)
Seniors
Congress
2021

Online on RealBridge
7th – 9th December 2021

Programme
(2021-12-06)

1 Introduction

Welcome to the Seniors Congress, played this year online on RealBridge. Players unfamiliar with EBU events played on RealBridge should read section 7 – where there is information on how to try RealBridge before the congress starts.

2 Times of play

Tuesday	11:00am - 2:15pm	Championship Pairs qualifier, session 1 (24 boards)
	3:00pm - 6:15pm	Championship Pairs qualifier, session 2 (24 boards)
Wednesday	11:00am - 1:45pm	Swiss Pairs , session 1 (3 x 7-board matches)
	11:00am - 2:15pm	Pairs Final , session 1 (24 boards)
	2:30pm - 6:10pm	Swiss Pairs , session 2 (4 x 7-board matches)
	3:00pm - 6:30pm	Pairs Final , session 2 (27+ boards)
Thursday	11:00am - 1:45pm	Swiss Teams , session 1 (3 x 7-board matches)
	2:30pm - 6:10pm	Swiss Teams , session 2 (4 x 7-board matches)

3 Championship Pairs

3.1 Qualifier

Tuesday is a two-session 'all-play-through' multiple pairs qualifying event: sessions will be 24 boards each. We expect 19 or 20 tables, playing two-board rounds.

The top 18 pairs will qualify for the Championship Pairs final, to be played on Wednesday. There is also a Swiss Pairs event on Wednesday for non-qualifiers and for new pairs joining the congress on this day. There will be no carry-forward score into either final.

3.2 Championship Pairs Final

Holders (2019): *Championship Pairs, A Final – Jeremy Dhondy & Bill Hirst*
Championship Pairs, B Final – Jon Downing & Julian Wernick

There will be one final of 9 tables, playing 17 3-board rounds. The final will comprise an 'Endless' Howell movement: the first session will be 8 rounds (24 boards), and the second session will be the remaining 9 rounds (27 boards).

3.3 Swiss Pairs

Holders (2019): *Val Cooper & Bob Foster*

This is a standard Swiss Pairs event, with assignments being made on a current round basis. The event comprises seven matches of seven boards per match; three matches before the break and four after.

4 Swiss Teams

Holders (2019): Jeremy Dhondy, Bill Hirst, Celia Oram, Derek Oram

The event comprises seven matches of seven boards per match, and will be played with a break after three matches. Teams will maintain their home tables for the duration of the event. Later rounds may involve rematches.

5 Master Points

5.1 Championship Pairs Qualifying Rounds

Blue Points at National scale (Club x 4) to half the field (minimum award of 0.24) — based on the total scores for the two sessions.

5.2 Championship Pairs Final

Green Points for all pairs in the final: assuming a 9-table final: 1st 7.00; 18th 2.00; awards for intermediate places in accordance with the standard EBU congress formula.

5.3 Swiss Pairs

0.25 Green Point per match won (0.13 for a draw). Bonus ranking awards to the top one-sixth of the field as follows: 1st 2.00; last award receiving position 0.25: awards for intermediate places in accordance with the standard EBU congress formula.

5.4 Swiss Teams

0.25 Green Point per match won (0.13 for a draw). Bonus ranking awards to the top one-fifth of the field as follows: 1st 4; last award receiving position 0.25: awards for intermediate places in accordance with the standard EBU congress formula.

6 Special Regulations

6.1 Systems and conventions

This is a 'level 4' event.

You are required to have a system card online that should make available to your opponents at the start of each round, by posting a link in the table chat. Since all competitions in this event are Level 4 you must use EBU system card (you may not use WBF system cards, which are only permitted in EBU Level 5 events).

You can use any existing link to your system card. Otherwise, system cards can be uploaded via the System Card utility on My EBU – log in to My EBU, under ‘Utilities’, select ‘System Cards’ and follow the instructions. This will give you an online link that you can provide to your opponents at the table. You can do this at any time.

6.2 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!

6.3 Telephones and other electrical communication

Mobile phones and other electronic communication devices may not be used during play, except in an emergency.

6.4 General

The terms and conditions of contest outlined in this programme may be varied upon the express instructions of the Tournament Director in charge in order to facilitate the smooth running of the congress should any unforeseen circumstances arise. Specifically, the Tournament Director in charge is authorised to determine the size of the two pairs finals once the total original entry in each event is known.

6.5 Master Points and Ranking List

All master points will be awarded by direct credit. Ranking lists are available from our web site at <http://www.ebu.co.uk/results/852>

7 RealBridge

7.1 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.

Players who have not played EBU events on RealBridge may wish to have a practice on RealBridge in advance of the congress. RealBridge offers taster sessions of 8 boards – you can sign up here <https://realbridge.online/try-realbridge.html>. By playing a short session in advance, you should be more able to enjoy the congress on RealBridge.

Players are expected to use video and audio during play. If you develop problems with audio/video, you will be allowed to 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.

7.2 Procedures

You should remember that you will be seen and heard by your opponents and should take care to avoid distracting behaviour such as eating while visible/audible 'at the table'.

7.2.1 Alerting/Announcing/Explaining

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

Note that the partner of the player who made the call will not have seen 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 alertable or announced face-to-face and provide a written explanation when making the call.

Exceptionally, **bids and passes** above 3NT should be alerted and explained if they are artificial or unexpected. Doubles and Redoubles need only be alerted if required by the face-to-face rules.

7.2.2 Online Regulations

The EBU Sky-Blue Book applies to this event. In particular

- Players may consult their own system card and other notes at any stage (1.1)
 - UNDOs are permitted in the auction but not in the play (4.3)
- If there is a request for an UNDO in the auction, the TD should be called – it may be necessary to reject the request in order to call the TD. The TD will rule whether Law 25A applies and if so, will instruct the other side to accept the request.

If the other side accept the request for an UNDO, without calling the TD, they will usually be deemed to have accepted the replacement call (Law 25B1 – 'the second call stands and the auction continues').



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