



NATIONAL PAIRS FINAL 2022

Online on RealBridge
9th – 10th April 2022

Revised – 15 tables

1 Times of Play

Saturday	11:00am – 2:00pm	Session 1 – 24 boards
	2:45pm – 5:45pm	Session 2 – 24 boards
Sunday	11:00am – 1:40pm	Session 3 – 21 boards
	2:20pm – 4:30pm	Session 4 – 18 boards

Final results will be available soon after the end of play and will be displayed on the EBU website www.ebu.co.uk/results/917 .

2 Introduction

The National Pairs is an 'all-play-all' competition. Fifteen tables (30 pairs) will play a full round robin of 29 x 3-board rounds — 87 boards in total.

The tournament as a whole consists of four sessions of up to 24 boards.

3 Starting positions for each session

Your original starting positions are included in the set-up on RealBridge: when you login with your name and EBU number (with no leading zeros) you should be seated automatically.

The links for subsequent sessions will be on the results page, the platform should seat you.

4 Master Points

All points quoted are Green Points per player, and will be direct credited. Awards to the top half of the field: 1st: 12.00 Green Points, minimum award 2.00 Green Points.

Awards for intermediate places are in accordance with the standard EBU tournament formula.

5 Prizes

All prizes are quoted in terms of £ per pair and will be automatically credited to the member's EBU account, and may be redeemed at any time on application to the EBU.

Prizes to second place as follows: 1st £140, 2nd £90

6 General

6.1 Systems and conventions

The National Pairs 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 upload to My EBU > Utilities > System Cards.

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 Split ties

A tie will be split only for the purpose of establishing the actual trophy winner. Tied places share equally any Master Points or prizes due, even if the tie has been split for some other purpose.

7 Format

The qualifying stage of the National Pairs competition has been simplified. The regional finals were held in heats in clubs.

The regional finals are scored across the whole country, and the top pairs overall qualify to play here in this National Final, which retains its existing format.

In addition, the five regions are scored separately for the purpose of awarding the regional trophies.

8 National Pairs holders, and regional winners

Holders (2021): Shahzaad Natt & Ian Pagan

Northern Region Irving Blakey & Joy Blakey

Midlands Region *no heats*

Eastern Region *no heats*

South East Region Shahzaad Natt & Ian Pagan

South West Region Dave Robinson & Tony Sowter

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.

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.

9.2 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'.

9.2.1 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 and explained by the player making the call. Provide a written explanation when making the call of all calls that would be alertable or announced face-to-face.

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.

9.2.2 Online Regulations

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

- Players may consult their own system card and other (pre-existing) system 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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