



**On behalf of the  
ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION**

**THE YORKSHIRE CONTRACT BRIDGE  
ASSOCIATION**

**Presents**

**THE HARROGATE  
SPRING CONGRESS  
2026**

**The Cedar Court Hotel,  
Harrogate**

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

## Introduction

Welcome to the Harrogate Spring Congress and to the Cedar Court Hotel – we hope you have a most enjoyable Congress.

## Schedule of play

### ***Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup>***

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 2:00pm – 5:30pm  | Really Easy Swiss Pairs (25 boards including tea) |
| 2:00pm – 5:15pm  | Swiss Pairs, session 1 (3 x 8-board matches)      |
| 7:30pm – 10:45pm | Swiss Pairs, session 2 (3 x 8-board matches)      |

### ***Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>***

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 1:00pm – 4:15pm | Swiss Pairs, session 3 (3 x 8-board matches) |
| 4:15pm – 5:30pm | Complimentary 2 course Buffet Supper         |
| 5:30pm – 8:45pm | Swiss Pairs, session 4 (3 x 8-board matches) |

### ***Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>***

|                  |                                      |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 10:30am – 1:15pm | Swiss Teams, (3 x 7-board matches)   |
| 1:15pm – 2:15pm  | Complimentary 2 course Buffet Lunch. |
| 2:15pm – 6:00pm  | Swiss Teams, (4 x 7-board matches)   |

## Swiss Pairs

This is a three session Swiss Pairs event, comprising 9 matches of 8 boards per match, with all pairs playing in one of the Friday sessions – but not both.

It is stratified into three categories:

Category 'A': Either player is of the rank of Premier Life Master or above. But see below.

Category 'B': Both players are below the rank of Premier Life Master.

Category 'C': Both players are below the rank of Premier Regional Master.

The above based on points earned before 06/02/2026.

Notwithstanding the above, any player who is NGS Ace is treated as Category A.

Similarly, any player who has represented England at any level is treated as Category A.

*Master Point awards:* 0.28 Green Point per match won (0.14 for a draw).

Bonus ranking awards on final ranking to the top quarter of the relevant field:

Category 'A': 1<sup>st</sup> place 5.00 Green Points, last award receiving position 0.50

Category 'B': 1<sup>st</sup> place 2.50 Green Points, last award receiving position 0.25

Category 'C': 1<sup>st</sup> place 1.25 Green Points, last award receiving position 0.13

Awards for intermediate places as per the standard EBU competition formula.

Pairs that qualify for an award on more than one list will only receive the highest of these awards i.e. Green Point awards are not cumulative.

## **Really Easy Swiss Pairs**

This is a separate single session Swiss Pairs competition of five 5-board matches.

*Master-point awards:* Blue points will be awarded at County scale i.e. double the club level local points: awards to the top one-third of the field.

## **Swiss Teams**

This is a one-day Swiss Teams event, comprising 7 matches of 7 boards per match, stratified into three categories:

Individually:

Stratification Level 'A': Premier Life Master or above. Also see below.

Stratification Level 'B': Premier Regional Master up to Life Master.

Stratification Level 'C': Regional Master or below.

The above based on points earned before 08/02/2026.

Notwithstanding the above, any player who is NGS Ace is treated as Stratification Level 'A'.

Any player who has represented England at any level is treated as Stratification Level 'A'.

As a team:

Category 'A': At least one member of the team is Stratification Level 'A'.

Category 'B': At least two members of the team are Stratification Level 'B' and none are 'A'.

Category 'C': At most one member of the team is Stratification Level 'B' and none are 'A'.

*Master Point awards:* 0.25 Green Point per match won (0.13 for a draw).

Bonus ranking awards on final ranking to the top fifth of the relevant field:

Category 'A': 1<sup>st</sup> place 4.00 Green Points, last award receiving position 0.40

Category 'B': 1<sup>st</sup> place 2.00 Green Points, last award receiving position 0.20

Category 'C': 1<sup>st</sup> place 1.00 Green Points, last award receiving position 0.10

Awards for intermediate places as per the standard EBU competition formula.

Teams that qualify for an award on more than one list will only receive the highest of these awards i.e. Green Point awards are not cumulative.

Note that in both the Swiss Pairs and the Swiss Teams events, the awards may be amended if the entry is significantly different to that expected.

## General Conditions

- *Permitted Understandings:* You are required to have a pair of identically completed EBU20B (or equivalent) system cards. If you do not, you may be provided with blank system cards and required to complete them before being allowed to continue play (scoring Average Minus on all boards lost during this time). WBF system cards are **only** permitted in EBU Level 5 events, so may not be used in this Congress.
- *Issue of Master Points and Ranking Lists:* All Master Points will be awarded by direct credit. Ranking lists are available from the YCBA web site [www.ycba.co.uk](http://www.ycba.co.uk).
- *Split Ties:* A tie for 1<sup>st</sup> place will be split in accordance with standard EBU procedures solely in order to determine the trophy winners of a particular event. Notwithstanding the above, any tied places share equally any Master Point award which may be due, even if the tie has been split as outlined above.
- *Special circumstances:* General EBU regulations apply in relation to any matter not detailed in these conditions. However, any conditions, whether they be general or specific to this Congress as set out in this programme, may be varied upon the 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.
- *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!
- *Bridgemates:* North (or South) is responsible for entering the contract, lead & result into the Bridgemate, and East (or West) must be shown it to verify its accuracy by pressing the ACCEPT button. Please take particular care to enter the correct board! If scores are displayed on a board that hasn't yet been played (irrespective of whether anyone has seen them), both pairs will get Average Minus on that board. Please check scores on the Bridgemate at the end of the round.

It is best to enter the contract, declarer and lead at the end of the auction – this saves time, reduces the risk of entering the wrong board number, and the lead is fresh in your mind.

Entering the lead accurately not only provides extra information of interest to players, but can also assist the scorer in resolving errors of data-entry.

Bridgemate UK is the EBU's "Official Wireless Scoring Provider".

- *Telephones:* Please switch off your mobile phone. If you must have it on for emergencies, switch it to silent and leave the playing area before answering it.

Jonathan Lillycrop (Tournament Director in Charge)