

## EBU, County and Other Events

In a previous section we have covered the main [EBU Competitions for clubs](#). There are many other events organised by the EBU for players who like to take on the challenge of competing against others from outside their own bridge club. As you might expect, some of these are large national events, while others are more local. Some of them are more suitable than others for newcomers to tournament bridge, but the bigger congresses will often have events for less experienced players, and one-day events regularly feature special prizes for the best non-expert players, so you may wish to encourage some of your less experienced club members to enter those, too.

We give a brief summary of the main events here. Fuller details of all EBU events can be found in the EBU Diary and in our [competitions section on the EBU Website](#). Members can book EBU events online through their member area on the EBU website or by contacting the EBU Competitions Department on [comps@ebu.co.uk](mailto:comps@ebu.co.uk) or 01296 317 203/219.

### Main EBU National and Regional Events

Although many of these have a traditional venue and time of year, dates and locations sometimes change, so please always check the EBU Diary or Website for exact details:

- Brighton Summer Meeting – ten days, mid-August. The EBU's premier congress with a comprehensive programme attracting players from all over the country and overseas. Both novices and seniors are catered for in their own *Really Easy Congress* and *Seniors Congress* held during the week.
- Swiss Teams Congress (Hinckley) – 2 days, late January.
- Harrogate Spring Congress – 3 days, late February.
- Ranked Masters Pairs (Daventry) – 2 days, early March.
- Masters Pairs (Various venues) – 1 day, early March.
- Portland Pairs (Various venues) – 1 day, late March.
- Easter Festival of Bridge (London) – 4 days.
- Northern Easter Festival (York) – 3 days.
- Jersey (Lambourne) Festival – 10 days, April/May.
- Schapiro Spring Foursomes (Stratford-upon-Avon) – 5 days, early May.
- Cheltenham Midweek Congress – 3 days, May/ June.

- Spring Bank Holiday Congress (Bournemouth) – 3 days, Whitsun.
- Riviera Congress (Torquay) – 3 days, June/July.
- Summer Seniors Congress (Eastbourne) – 3 days, early July.
- Scarborough Summer Congress – 4 days, late July.
- National Women's Teams (Solihull) – 2 days, early September.
- Guernsey Congress – 10 days, September.
- Great Northern Swiss Pairs (Leeds) – 2 days, early October.
- Autumn Congress (Stratford-upon-Avon) – 3 days, mid October.
- Seniors Congress (Daventry) – 3 days, early November.
- Year End Congress (Blackpool) – 3 days, end December.
- Year End Congress (London) – 4 days, end December.

Of the above, it may be worth singling out the Portland Pairs and the Masters Pairs as being particularly suited for club players. The former is a Mixed Pairs event, while the latter is only open to players of rank up to and including Premier Master. Both are one-day events held at several venues around the country, making them more easily accessible to a geographically wider range of players. They are scored nationally as Simultaneous events.

### **National Knockout Competitions**

- Hubert Phillips Bowl and Plate – April onwards. The mixed teams-of-four championships of England.
- Gerard Faulkner Salver – June onwards. Seniors teams-of-four.
- Crockfords Cup and Plate – August onwards. England's premier open teams-of-four championship. Unseeded teams losing their first match in the Cup go into the Plate.
- National Inter-Club Knockout (NICKO) and Plate – September onwards. Most popular tournament.
- Gold Cup and Silver Plate – November onwards. Britain's most prestigious open teams-of-four championship. Unseeded teams losing their first match in the Cup go into the Plate.

### **National Events for Juniors**

- Portland Bowl – October onwards. British Universities teams-of-four knockout.
- Young Bridge Challenge inc. Schools Cup (Loughborough) – 1 day March.
- Under-25 Pairs Championship (London) – 2 days Easter.
- Under-19 Pairs Championship – 1 day Easter.

- Junior Teach In (Loughborough) – 3 days late August.

## **EBU Overseas Congresses**

Each year the EBU runs two week-long Overseas Congresses – one in February and one in October. These are organised in conjunction with a recognised holiday company and are an excellent way to enjoy a holiday abroad with some good bridge and congenial company.

## **Really Easy Events**

Really Easy Bridge competitions are organised for our newer players – students who have been learning for six months to five years. They include a Minibrige Simultaneous Pairs at the end of the first five weeks of lessons, Really Easy weekend events in spring and autumn and a midweek Really Easy Summer Congress during the Brighton Congress in August. For more details, please visit [www.reallyeasybridge.com](http://www.reallyeasybridge.com).

## **County Events**

Each County Association organises its own events. These vary from county to county but usually include championships for Ladies', Men's, Mixed, Seniors' and Open Pairs, Teams, as well as a County Congress or One-day Green Pointed Swiss Teams or Swiss Pairs. Many counties also organise events particularly suited to newcomers and novices where entry may be restricted by Master Point rank or by number of years playing.

Among the most popular county events are usually the League Competitions where clubs field one or more teams-of-four or teams-of-eight who compete against each other over the course of a season for honour and a trophy and perhaps promotion to a higher division. These matches are usually quite sociable affairs. New teams start off in the lowest division and are thus matched against other players of similar ability.

For full details of your local county events, please consult the appropriate [County Association website](#). You may wish to encourage your members to take part in their local events by advertising them at the club and listing them in the calendar on your club website.

## **Licensed EBU Events**

A number of clubs, organisations and holiday companies run events licensed by the EBU. The licensing ensures that the competition complies with a national standard and that the laws of duplicate bridge are upheld. These events usually award Master Points. Details of individual events can be found on the [EBU calendar](#) and in advertisements in *English Bridge*.

## **EBU Improver Weekends**

A series of residential weekends aimed at club players interested in improving their game. The weekends will feature four regular duplicate sessions, plus morning seminars on various aspects of the game. For details of dates and venues, please see the [EBU website](#).

## **Charitable and Other Events**

Many organisations, not necessarily bridge clubs, run various bridge events. These are often charity bridge drives with the proceeds going to a local cause. Information about such events can often be found in the local press, but the organisers may also contact your club to ask you to publicise their event to your members. Naturally, support of any charitable cause is encouraged.

The official charity supported by the EBU is Children in Need. A week-long series of Simultaneous Pairs events is held every year in November to raise funds for this excellent cause. All clubs are encouraged to take part in this and to raise extra funds by running tombolas and so on. There is no Pay-to-Play charge for CiN Sim Pairs. More details can be found on the [EBU Competitions Calendar](#).

- See also the section on [Simultaneous Pairs](#).