



**NATIONAL PAIRS
FINAL
2021**

**Online on RealBridge
10th – 11th April 2021**

1 Times of Play

Saturday	11:00am – 3:00pm	Session 1 – 15 x 2-board rounds
	3:40pm – 7:15pm	Session 2 – 14 x 2-board rounds
Sunday	11:00 am – 2:35pm	Session 3 – 14 x 2-board rounds
	3:15pm – 6:50pm	Session 4 – 14 x 2-board rounds

Final results will be available soon after the end of play and will be displayed on the EBU website: <https://ebu.co.uk/results/806>.

2 Introduction

The National Pairs Final is an 'all-play-all' competition. 58 pairs will play a full round robin of 57 x 2-board rounds — 114 boards in total.

The tournament as a whole consists of four sessions, of (mainly) 28 boards.

3 Starting positions for each session

Your original starting positions are included in the set-up on RealBridge: when you log in 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: 16.00 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 sixth place as follows: 1st £240, 2nd £180, 3rd £120, 4th £100, 5th £80, 6th £60.

6 General

6.1 Systems and conventions

The National Pairs is a 'level 4' event.

You are required to have a system cards 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 emailed in advance to EBUConventionCards@gmail.com to receive an online link that you can provide to your opponents at the table. Please send your System Cards in PDF format, named "Surname-Surname.pdf".

System cards must be emailed by **5:00pm Thursday 8 April** to be used in this event.

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!

You may not eat, smoke or use electronic cigarettes while visible/audible 'at the table'.

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 were scored across the whole country, in the same way as the Portland Pairs, and the top 50 pairs overall qualify to play here in this National Final, which retains its existing format.

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

In 2020 there were regional finals, but no final. In 2021, there were regional finals, played online, and the 2021 final includes qualifiers from 2020 and 2021.

8 RealBridge

8.1 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. But if you develop 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.

8.2 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.

8.2.1 Alerting/Announcing/Explaining

RealBridge has different modes of operations. This events 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: 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.

8.2.2 Online Regulations

The 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)

8.2.3 *NEW* UNDOs in the auction – Law 25

If there is a request for an UNDO in the auction, the TD should be called – the TD will rule whether Law 25A applies and will instruct the other side whether 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’).

9 National Pairs holders, and regional winners

Holders (2019): Frances Hinden & Jeffrey Allerton

2020

Northern Region Stuart Davies & George Bak

Midlands Region Clive Owen & Brian Senior

Eastern Region Tom Dessain & Tugrul Kaban

South East Region Shahzaad Natt & Ian Pagan

South West Region Edward Leatham & Nick Forrest

2021

Northern Region Liam Sanderson & Ali Ahmed

Midlands Region Clive Owen & Brian Senior

Eastern Region Adrian Ring & Paul Chapman

South East Region Anne Rosen & Nevena Senior

South West Region Tony Sowter & Dave Robinson



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