



The Autumn Congress

23rd – 25th October 2020

On RealBridge



PROGRAMME

Times of play

Friday	2:00pm - 5:20pm	Two Stars Pairs qualifier I (24 boards, matchpointed pairs)
	6:00pm – 9:10pm	Two Stars Pairs qualifier II (24 boards, matchpointed pairs)
Saturday	11:00am – 2:30pm	Two Stars final (session 1) (9 x 3-board rounds)
	11:00am – 2:15pm	Consolation Pairs, session 1 (Swiss Pairs 3x8-board matches)
	3:00pm – 7:15pm	Two Stars final (session 2) (10 x 3-board rounds, with a break)
	2:45pm – 6:45pm	Consolation Pairs, session 2 (Swiss Pairs 54x8-board matches)
Sunday	11:00am – 2:20pm	Teams-of-Four Championships (qualifying round: 24 boards)
	3:00pm – 6:45pm	Teams-of-Four finals (Eastbourne Bowl & Burlington Cup: 27 boards)
	3:00pm – 6:15pm	Sussex Cup (for non-qualifiers: 24 boards)

Two Stars Pairs Championship

for the Two Stars Pairs Trophy

Qualifying

The qualifying stage is two sessions, each of 24 boards, scored by match-points.

Pairs will be assigned starting position from 1:30pm onwards.

The top 20 pairs qualify for the Two Stars Pairs final.

Those who do not qualify for the final will normally play in the Consolation Swiss Pairs on the Saturday, along with pairs joining at this stage.

There will be no carry-forward from Friday into any event on Saturday.

It is assumed that pairs who fail to qualify for the final will play in the one-day Consolation Swiss Pairs event on Saturday – any pair who does not wish to do so should ensure that the tournament directors are aware of this.

Master point awards

Green Points awards depending on format. Awards for overall ranking and awards for ranking in each session.

Prizes

Quoted in terms of £ per pair to the top three places.

Two Stars final

Two Star Pairs trophy holders: Ollie Burgess & Heather Dhondy

Twenty pairs will play an all-play-all final of 19 three-board rounds in a 10-table barometer Howell. Starting positions will be prepared in advance.

Master point awards

Green Points for all 20 pairs: 1st 8; 20th 2.00; awards for intermediate places in accordance with the standard EBU congress formula.

Prizes

Quoted in terms of £ per pair to leading places.

See also: Special Category Prizes.

Consolation Swiss Pairs

for the Lewis Levy Cup, holders: Catherine Curtis & Paul Fegarty

This is a one-day event on Saturday open to all non-qualifiers for the Two Stars final and to pairs entering the congress at this point.

Pairs will be assigned starting positions from 10:30am onwards.

Master point awards

Green Points awards for matches won.

Bonus ranking awards (Green Points) to the top one-eighth of the field:

1st 4.00; last award receiving position 0.25.

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

Prizes

Quoted in terms of £ per pair to 3rd place.

See also: Special Category Prizes.

Teams Championships

For the Eastbourne Bowl, Burlington Cup and Sussex Cup.

Qualifying round

Teams may be divided into sections for the qualifying round on Sunday, and starting positions will be published in advance.

For this purpose, it is essential that all teams enter their names by 5:00pm on Saturday evening. The name of the team captain should be indicated – this is the name which will be used when listing your starting positions.

Scoring will be by net IMPs. The leading teams within each section will qualify for the Eastbourne Bowl. The next best placed teams within each section will qualify for the Burlington Cup.

The teams' qualifying ratios will be such as to result in a 10-team final in each event, and will be announced as soon as final figures and section sizes are known. All other teams will qualify for the Sussex Cup.

The qualifying ratios may involve expressions such as the 'best third placed team' in a group. Should this arise, then the term 'best' in this context is defined as the team fewest imps behind the second placed team in their group (likewise, the 'best fifth placed team' are those closest to the fourth placed team in their group). In other words, it is the size of the gap which is important – not the actual score.

Master point awards

Green Points will be awarded based on rounds won, 0.07 Green per 2-board round won; 0.11 Green per 3-board round won. A draw counts as half win (0.04 or 0.06, respectively).

Prizes

There are no prizes in respect of the qualifying round, but section winners are guaranteed a prize. A section winner who does finish in the main prize list will receive the prize relevant to that place, but not the section prize: these particular prizes are not cumulative.

Starting positions for all finals

Team captains will be assigned starting positions.

Eastbourne Bowl (Premier Teams final)

Eastbourne Bowl holders: John Sansom, John Hassett, Paul Hackett & Dave Debbage

Ten teams will play 9 x 3-board matches. Head-to-head matches will be played, in order that running scores may be displayed after each round. Scoring will continue to be by net IMPs.

Master point awards

Green Points to all qualifiers: 1st 5.00; 10th 1.00: awards for intermediate places in accordance with the standard EBU congress formula.

Awards for matches won as per the qualifying round.

Prizes

Quoted in terms of £ per team to the top three teams.

Burlington Cup (Secondary Teams final)

Burlington Cup holders: Kiril Delev, Claire Robinson, Qian Li & Tony Ye

Ten teams will play 9 x 3-board matches. Head-to-head matches will be played during the second half of the movement, in order that running scores may be displayed at all times (barometer). Scoring will continue to be by net IMPs.

Master point awards

Green Points to all qualifiers: 1st 2.50; 10th 0.50; awards for intermediate places in accordance with the standard EBU congress formula.

Awards for matches won as per the qualifying round.

Prizes

Quoted in terms of £ per team to the top two teams

Sussex Cup

Sussex Cup holders: John Prust, Trupti Shah, Naomi Gibbs & Michael Rawlins

There will probably be only one section in play, playing 24 boards in total. Scoring is by net IMPs. The trophy is awarded to the team with the largest plus score.

Master point awards

Green Points will continue to be awarded based on rounds won – 0.07 Green per 2-board round won and 0.11 Green per 3-board round won. A draw counts as half-win.

In addition, whether or not there is more than one section, section winners only receive 0.75 Green (or 0.50 Green if playing 3-board rounds) and the Sussex Cup winners receive a further 1.00 Green (thus making a total ranking bonus of 1.75 or 1.50 Green Points, respectively).

Prizes

The overall winners will receive a prize. In addition, should there be more than one section in play, the other section winners will receive a smaller prize.

General Notes

Special category prizes

Prizes will be awarded in the following categories in the pairs events:

Junior (both players under 25 years of age) and **Non-expert**.

A non-expert pair is defined as one in which both players are below the rank of Premier Regional Master, this based upon points earned regardless of whether registered or not. Any player presently or previously based overseas for any substantial period of time during his/her bridge-playing career, or any player who has been selected to represent his/her country at any level (including under-25 or under-20 level) is excluded from this category.

One special category prize will be awarded to the leading pair in each category (if any) who reach the Two Stars Pairs final but do not finish in the main prize list in the final.

Irrespective of the above, prizes will also be awarded to the leading pairs in each category in the Saturday Consolation Swiss Pairs who finish outside of the main prize list, providing their score is average or above. One such prize will be available in each.

Pairs falling within one or both of these special categories should notify the tournament directors.

System Cards

Instructions of how to post and read system cards on RealBridge will be send to players.

All events in the congress are EBU level 4 and you may only use EBU system cards – WBF convention cards may not be used.

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!

Slow Play

Slow play interferes with the smooth running of events and is discourteous to other players. If you have not started a board when there is less than three minutes left of the round, you may well have the board removed and be awarded an artificial score.

Persistent slow players could additionally be given a procedural penalty. Players experiencing video or audio problems are advised to continue to play and communicate via text until they have completed a round and have time to investigate the problem.

Prizes

All prizes will be automatically credited to the member's EBU account, and may be redeemed at any time on application to the EBU. The prize values quoted assume a certain level of entry, and are subject to alteration should the actual entry be significantly different from that originally envisaged. An appropriate announcement would be made before the half-way stage of the tournament in question should this eventuality arise.

Special circumstances

General EBU regulations apply in relation to any matter not detailed in these conditions (e.g. protest time). However, any conditions may be varied by the Tournament Director in-charge in order to accommodate any unforeseen circumstance and in order to facilitate the smooth running of this Congress.

RealBridge

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.

During a session, if you have 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. Alternatively, Ctrl-F5 will do a full refresh if, for example, your cards and/or bids are not displaying.

Procedures

Alerting/Announcing/Explaining

RealBridge has different modes of operations, but this congress will be open table with partner-alerting and verbal announcements and explanations as in face-to-face bridge: players can see/hear all the players at the table, but a player does not see alerts made by their partner.

Calls are alerted by the partner of the player making the call, the alert is made by clicking the alert strip. Alert calls that would be alertable face-to-face.

Verbal announcements are required as for face-to-face bridge: announcements should be accompanied by an alert.

Exceptionally, artificial **bids** above 3NT should be alerted (but here should be no verbal announcement). This will not pass information to the player making the bid, because they will not see the alert. Passes/Doubles/Redoubles should only be alerted if required by the face-to-face rules.

Explanations of calls in response to a question from the opponents, should be given by the partner of the player making the call.

Asking questions at the end of the auction

There is no face-down opening lead in RealBridge. The opening leader can ask questions before they lead. The other defender should not ask questions until the opening lead has been made, and can wait to ask questions until their turn to play to the first trick (that is, after declarer has played from dummy).

Some dos and don'ts

Taken from Richmond Bridge Club – with thanks.

1. Play in the quietest setting available to you where you won't be disturbed by other people, animals or noisy machines.
2. In order to reduce any background noise, consider muting your microphone except when you are in conversation with others or announcing or explaining bids.
3. Ensure that any phones in the room are on silent or answerphone. It is not acceptable to use a phone during play unless there is an emergency.
4. If you need to eat or drink, please do so as quietly as possible with the same consideration to others as you would use at the club.
5. It is not acceptable to conduct another activity when playing on this platform.
6. If you need to leave the room, inform the other players, turn off your camera and mute your microphone until your return

Player of the Year Championship

In a normal competitions year, the Two Stars Pairs is the first event to count towards our Player of the Year Championship.

Players can gain points based on finishing in the top places of the most prestigious events on the EBU calendar.

The events in which points can be scored include knockout competitions and congress tournaments. The full list can be found on our website.



English Bridge Union
Broadfields, Bicester Road,
Aylesbury HP19 8AZ
tel: 01296 317200
e-mail: postmaster@ebu.co.uk
web site: www.ebu.co.uk