



YEAR END ONLINE CONGRESS 2021

**Played on RealBridge
27th – 30th December 2021**

featuring

the Swiss Pairs Championship for the Philip Broke Trophy
the Mixed Pairs Championship for the Durran-Weissberger Trophy
Open Pairs for the Rixi Markus Trophy
the Swiss Teams Championship for the Grattan Endicott Bowl

Links to play each day and other information will be provided on the results page,
<https://www.ebu.co.uk/results/859>

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1 Programme

December 27th	11:00am – 2:15pm	Stratified Swiss Pairs , session 1 (3 x 8-board matches)
	3:00pm – 6:00pm	Stratified Swiss Pairs , session 2 (3 x 8-board matches)
December 28th	11:00am – 2:15pm	Stratified Swiss Pairs , session 3 (3 x 8-board matches)
	11.00am – 1.45pm	Jack High Swiss Pairs , session 1 (3 x 6-board matches)
	2.45pm – 5.30pm	Jack High Swiss Pairs , session 2 (3 x 6-board matches)
	3:00pm – 6:00pm	Stratified Swiss Pairs , session 4 (3 x 8-board matches)
December 29th	11:00am – 2:15pm	Mixed and Open Pairs , session 1
	3:00pm – 6:00pm	Mixed and Open Pairs , session 2
December 30th	11:00am – 1:50pm	Stratified Swiss Teams , session 1 (3 x 7-board matches)
	2:30pm – 6:10pm	Stratified Swiss Teams , session 2 (4 x 7-board matches)

2 Swiss Pairs Championship

for the Philip Broke Trophy – holders Derek Maggs & Phil Norman

This two-day-Swiss event is stratified, see *Stratification*.

Assignments are on a current round basis.

2.1 Prizes

All prizes are quoted in terms of £ per pair. There will be separate prizes for overall ranking, for the 'B' and 'C' combined list and for the 'C' list alone.

Prizes will depend on entries.

2.2 Master Point awards

0.28 Green Point per match won (0.14 for a draw). Bonus awards based on final ranking will be awarded to the top quarter of the field.

1st place 7.00 Green Points, last award receiving position 0.50;

in the B ranking, 1st place 3.50, last award 0.25;

in the C ranking, 1st place 1.75, last place 0.13;

awards for intermediate places in each list in accordance with the standard EBU competition formula.

3 Stratification

3.1 Categories

'A': a Premier Life Master or above;

'B': a Premier Regional Master or above but not a Premier Life Master or above;

'C': not a Premier Regional Master or above.

There are exceptions/exemptions, see

<https://www.ebu.co.uk/competitions/stratifications>, in particular

<https://www.ebu.co.uk/documents/official-documents/Stratification-2019.pdf>

3.2 Swiss Pairs

The stratification category for a pair is the higher of the categories of the two players.

3.3 Swiss Teams

- 'A': any player is a Grand Master or above,
or has the NGS grade of 'Ace',
or is in the Gold-Point top 60;
or two players are category 'A';
- 'B': at least two members of the team are 'B' or one is 'A';
- 'C': at most one player is 'B' and no 'A'.

4 Jack High Swiss Pairs

2020 winners: Ann Robinson & Gordon Clark

This event is aimed at club players who are interested in taking the first steps into congress bridge without jumping straight into a major congress event. The competition is sponsored by First for Bridge – we thank them for their donation of prizes.

In order to qualify to play in this event, you must have an NGS of no higher than 'Jack' at the time of entering. We reserve the right to decline entries from those who may meet the NGS requirements, but have significant tournament experience and are not 'congress-novices'. The event will be stratified too so that there are extra Master Points; and an extra prize available for pairs of players both ranked '9' or lower (subject to entries).

Only level 2 agreements are permitted.

The format will be six 6-board matches with a break after three matches.

4.1 Prizes

Prizes will depend on entries.

4.2 Master Points

0.21 Green Point for each match won (0.11 for a draw), plus awards based on final ranking as follows:

Awards to the top quarter of the field overall: top award of 2.00, minimum award of 0.50.

Awards to the top one-sixth of the 'nine and below' pairs: top award of 1.00, minimum award of 0.25.

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

5 Mixed Pairs

for the Durran-Weissberger Trophy – holders: Ian Draper & Anne Rosen

A match-pointed pairs event, scored across the mixed field, comprising two sessions of about 26 boards per session.

5.1 Prizes

To the leading pairs, depending on entries.

5.2 Master point awards

Green Point awards to the top half of the field. 1st place 5.00 Green Points, last award receiving position 1.00; awards for intermediate places in accordance with the standard EBU competition formula.

6 Open Pairs

for the Rixi Markus Trophy – holders: Jason Hackett & John Sansom

A match-pointed pairs event, scored across the field comprising two sessions of about 26 boards per session.

6.1 Prizes

To the leading pairs, depending on entries.

If there are enough entries for three prizes, the leading Men's Pair and leading Women's Pair are guaranteed a prize, but prizes are not cumulative.

6.2 Master Point awards

Green Point awards to the top half of the field. 1st place 4.00 Green Points, last award receiving position 1.00; awards for intermediate places in accordance with the standard EBU competition formula.

7 Swiss Teams Championship

for the Grattan Endicott Bowl – holders:

Graham Sadie, Patrick Shields, Paul Denning, Richard Chamberlain

This one-day event is stratified, see above *Stratification*.

Three matches of 7 boards will be played in the first session. Four matches of 7 boards will be played in the second session.

7.1 Prizes

All prizes are quoted in terms of £ per team. There will be prizes for the overall ranking, and for the 'B' and 'C' list combined, and for 'C' list alone.

Prizes are limited to one prize per team, which shall be the highest one available to them. Any prize so released will be awarded to the next team in line in the appropriate category.

7.2 Master Point awards

0.25 Green Point per match won (0.13 for a draw), with bonus ranking awards as follows:

Main ranking list (all three categories combined): a top award of 6.00 Green Points, with a minimum of 0.50.

Category 'B' and 'C' combined: a top award of 3.00 Green Points with a minimum of 0.25.

Category 'C' only: a top award of 1.50 Green Points, with a minimum of 0.13.

Awards extend to one-fifth of the field on each such list. Awards for intermediate places on each stratified list will be in accordance with the standard EBU congress formula.

8 General Information

8.1 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 are subject to alteration should the actual entry.

8.2 Permitted Systems and Conventions

Level 4 agreements are permitted in all of the main congress events. The Jack High Swiss Pairs is Level 2.

You are required to have a completed system cards (EBU 20B) and you should exchange a link to the card with your opponents at the start of each round.

You can upload a copy of your system card to My EBU: Utilities: System Cards – to get a simple link to provide to opponents.

Competitions in this event are at most Level 4, so you may **only** use EBU system cards; not WBF system cards, which are **only** permitted in Level 5 events.

8.3 Split Ties

A tie for first place will be split in accordance with standard EBU procedures solely in order to determine the trophy winners of a particular tournament. Any tied places share equally any Master Point or prize award which may be due, even if the tie has been split as outlined above.

8.4 Special circumstances

General EBU regulations apply in relation to any matter not detailed in these conditions (e.g. protest time). However, any conditions, whether they be general or specific to this competition as set out in this programme, may be varied upon the special 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.

8.5 Appeals and protests

Any player who has received a Tournament Director's ruling, and who believes that a review of that ruling should be considered (i.e. is contemplating lodging an appeal), is encouraged to consult a neutral adviser on the subject before proceeding with the appeal.

Appeals Committees have been instructed to keep deposits and issue scoring penalties should they determine that an appeal is without merit.

8.6 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!

8.7 Telephones and other electrical devices

Do not use a phone or other communication, except for emergencies.

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 who have not played EBU events on RealBridge may wish to have a practice on RealBridge in advance of the congress. RealBridge offers taster sessions of 8 boards – you can sign up here <https://realbridge.online/try-realbridge.html>. By playing a short session in advance, you should be more able to enjoy the congress on RealBridge.

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 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.

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 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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