

COMPETITIONS PROGRAMME JANUARY TO MAY 2023

Sun 22nd Jan	Thea Teale Bronze Swiss Teams	11.00 am	BBO \$11	Online on BBO 7 x 5 boards
Sat 28 th & Sun 29 th January Sat 4 th Feb and Sun 5 th Feb	Winter Fours	TBA		Online on RealBridge
Sun 5 th Feb	Winter Swiss Teams	11.00 am	£12	Online on RB. RB as rest of event played on RB and maybe significant non SBU entrants.
Sun 12 th Feb	Scottish Swiss Pairs	11.00 am	BBO \$14	On BBO moved from May
Sat 25 th Feb	Mens Pairs	11.00 am	BBO \$14	Online on BBO
Sun 26 th Feb	Mens Teams	11.00 am	£12	Online on RB
Sat 25 th Feb	Womens Pairs	11.00 am	BBO \$14	Online on BBO
Sun 26 th Feb	Womens Teams	11.00 am	£12	Online on RB
Friday 10 th March to Sunday 12 th March	Peebles Congress	See conference brochure		Face to face at the Peebles Hydro
Mon 20 th to Thur 24 th March	Easter Pairs and Bobby Allan (SIMS)			In Clubs they decide
Sat 18 th March	National Pairs Heats	11.00 am	£10/ BBO \$11	Online both RealBridge and BBO. Pairs movements in sections
Sat 15 th April	National Pairs final	TBA	£10	Final face to face in Glasgow. 12 tables playing a full Howell
Sat 29 th April	Ranked Individuals	From 10.30 am	BBO \$14	Online on BBO
Sat 27 th May	Mixed Swiss Pairs	TBA	£16	Face to Face at New Melville.
Sun 28 th May	Mixed Swiss Teams	TBA	£16	Face to Face at New Melville.

Notes on the Changes

We are in a new era of bridge. Face to face bridge is gradually restarting and gaining numbers but online bridge is still popular. Considerable research has been done and the majority opinion of members is that they would like to see a programme including both face to face and online.

Below is the programme we are delivering for the rest of this year. The reaction to this in numbers playing and feedback received will dictate what programme runs in future years. The programme for 2023/4 will be decided based on the success or otherwise of these competitions.

The SBU currently uses two online bridge platforms: BBO and RealBridge. There are concerns about the integrity of online bridge and RealBridge is regarded as better than BBO: because players are in view all the time, cheating is more difficult. There are issues with RealBridge in rural areas where broadband speeds are slower. The programmed events use both platforms. We would urge BBO users to try RealBridge. It does work a lot better now than it did at the start.

The programme is based on the following policies:

- All one day open events will be played online so that they are available to all members wherever they live.
- There will be Saturday/Sunday events played face to face in places where overnight accommodation is available.
- There will be events on BBO and RealBridge but all finals will be played either face to face or on RealBridge.

Changes to the Timetable that you should note:

The **Winter Swiss Teams** on Sunday 5th February will be played on RealBridge

The **Scottish Swiss Pairs** that used to be played in Ayrshire in May will be online on BBO on Sunday 12th February.

We have left the **Womens and Mens Pairs and Teams** online on 25th and 26th February, pairs on BBO and teams on RealBridge. We will be asking those participating and those not whether they would prefer a residential event in future years.

The **National Pairs** structure will change to reflect its elite status. There will be open qualifying heats online on Saturday 18th March. There will be heats on BBO and on RealBridge. The final will be face to face in Glasgow on Saturday 15th April.

The **Mixed Swiss Pairs and Teams** that used to be played in Glasgow in February will be the first back to back, face to face event. It will be played at the New Melville in Edinburgh on the 27th and 28th May.

It is impossible to devise a programme that will please everybody. We hope that this programme will provide something for everybody.

Any comments to: tournament@sbu.org.uk