

British Sims (formerly BGB) Special Instructions for Welsh Bridge Union Clubs

Clubs will need to contact the EBU initially to register them as a contact club. They will need to have contact details – a name and e-mail address, as well as a postal address if you would like commentary booklets to be sent to you. This one-off registration will enable the club to register online for all future Sim Pairs events run by the EBU. Email Ian Mitchell - ian@ebu.co.uk

Clubs will be provided with an ID and a password for accessing the EBU Members Area.

Once registered, the club will be able to act (almost) just as an EBU-affiliated club on the Members Area, for the purposes of the Sim Pairs only. i.e. they will be able to register for future events online, without having to contact the EBU each time, and they will be able to submit 'P2P' files for inclusion in the Sim Pairs events.

Most of the instructions below will therefore still apply. However, there are one or two exceptions, and there are parts of the process that are routine for English clubs that will as yet be unfamiliar to 'foreign' clubs:

a. Logging on

Please visit the Member Login page <https://www.ebu.co.uk/members/>

Enter your provided 'club ID number' into the box labelled 'User', and your password into the 'password' box, and click on 'Login' (or hit 'Return').

Having logged on, you can change your password, if you like, to something more memorable, by clicking on 'Change Password' on the Right Hand Side.

b. Sim Pairs Registration

Having logged on, click on the 'Sim Pairs' button on the Right Hand Side. Click on the 'Register' button next to any events that you wish to enter.

Unlike EBU clubs, you will not be required to nominate a club representative to download the necessary files. You will be able to download the files directly from the same page, the club's page of the Members Area.

c. Submitting Results

i. From your scoring program you need to create an EBU P2P file. In ScoreBridge, for example, you do this from the results page for the event, by selecting 'P2P file' from the 'Make File' menu. If this item doesn't appear on the menu, you might have an old version of ScoreBridge, and you will need to upgrade. ScoreBridge saves this file into a folder on the desktop. Other scoring programs might save it elsewhere. You need to make a note of where the file is saved.

ii. Log in to your club's page of the Members Area, as above.

iii. On the 'info' page (the first page that you see after logging on) there is a box for uploading P2P files. Click on the 'browse' button next to it, and navigate to where the P2P file was saved. The file you are looking for has an '.xml' extension, and is likely to contain the date as part of the file name.

iv. Select this file, and then click on the 'Send' button. You may need to wait a few seconds while the system validates the file. When all is validated, click on 'Submit'.

N.B. all Master Points will be registered electronically. To do this, we need to have Union Numbers for all your players. Please make sure that your player database (within your scoring program) is populated with Union Numbers, before you create the P2P file.

Detailed Instructions for Clubs Entering EBU and British Sim Pairs Events

Introduction

As you may already know, the EBU will be taking over from Ecats the running of its own Sim Pairs events, as well as the 'British Sim Pairs' (formerly known as BGB Sim Pairs) with effect from April 2012. Ecats will continue to run various other events including (but not limited to) the 'Children in Need' Sim Pairs, the European Bridge League Sim Pairs, and the World Bridge Federation Sim Pairs.

The following events will be run by the EBU:

SPRING BRITISH SIMULTANEOUS PAIRS	Tuesday 10 - Friday 13; Monday 16 April 2012
EBU SPRING SIMULTANEOUS PAIRS	Tuesday 8 - Friday 11; Monday 14 May 2012
SUMMER BRITISH SIMULTANEOUS PAIRS	Monday 30 July - Friday 3 August 2012
EBU AUTUMN SIMULTANEOUS PAIRS	Monday 10 - Friday 14 September 2012
AUTUMN BRITISH SIMULTANEOUS PAIRS	Monday 8 - Friday 12 October 2012
WINTER BRITISH SIMULTANEOUS PAIRS	Monday 7 - Friday 11 January 2013
BRIDGE ENGLAND SIMULTANEOUS PAIRS	Tuesday 5 & Wednesday 6 February 2013
CLUB STRATIFIED SIMULTANEOUS PAIRS	Monday 11 - Friday 15 March 2013

In order to reduce costs, and to make the whole process more efficient, we are aiming to do as much as we can electronically:

Club should register online, via the Members Area. When the club is registered, your club representative will be able to download all necessary files directly from their own personal page of the Members Area, without any need to contact the EBU.

Clubs will of course submit their results electronically, but this will be done as part of your normal P2P submission process – there is no need to submit a Sim Pairs file independently. A prompt submission of the P2P file will ensure that your club members will get to see their national results as quickly as possible!

You will be charged automatically, and the amount will be added to your monthly or bi-monthly P2P invoice. If the club pays this by direct debit, there's no need to lift a finger!

As well as deal files, travellers and curtain cards, commentaries on the hands will be available to be downloaded by the club representative via the Members Area. They will also be available online to be viewed or downloaded by the players after the event. We hope that clubs will take this opportunity to avoid unnecessary printing and postage. However, we recognise that this is one area where this could involve significantly more inconvenience to the clubs, and so we will continue to offer the service of sending out commentary booklets at an additional cost.

The reduced entry fee of £2.50 per player is based on clubs downloading all that they need via the Members Area. If they wish to receive printed Commentary Booklets by post, these will cost £8 for a pack of 20 booklets.

1. Registration

Registration for EBU clubs must be made **online**. Please do NOT try to register by e-mailing or phoning the EBU.

- a. **Visit the club's page of the EBU Members Area** <https://www.ebu.co.uk/members/>

Once you have logged in you should see a button on the right hand side (below the 'Log Out' and 'Change Password' buttons) labelled '**Sim Pairs**'.

- b. **Click on the 'Sim Pairs' button!** You should now see a list of forthcoming Sim Pairs events.

- c. **Click on the 'Register' button** next to the event for which you wish to enter.

i) You are now required to nominate a club member who will be responsible for downloading files for the event, as per section 2 below. This might be you yourself, but if you personally will be playing in the event, you may wish to nominate another member who will pre-duplicate the boards, etc.

Although I say 'club member', in fact there is no requirement that the player is a member of your club – some clubs make use of a third party (e.g. at a neighbouring club) to deal their boards. The only requirement is that the player is an EBU member (since you need to supply an EBU number!). If you need a non-member to make up the boards, you will have to nominate another player to download the files, who can then pass the files on.

ii) You can also, at this stage, order the number of packets of booklets that you will require. These will be dispatched nearer the time to the person nominated above (at their postal address as recorded on the EBU database – so please ensure that this is up to date!) The cost for these will be added to your monthly (or bi-monthly) P2P invoice. One set of printed travellers will also be included with each order.

- d. **Click on 'Confirm'.**

Once you have confirmed, the list of forthcoming Sims events will show that you have registered, and also show the name of the nominated representative. You can register in advance for as many events, and as far in advance, as you wish (subject to the events being on the list). Please note that although you can register a long time in advance, the files for each event will only become available for downloading from about a month before the event

You can return to this page at any time, and you will be able to see the events for which you have been registered.

If you need to change any of the details registered, you can do so (provided it's not too late) by clicking on the 'Amend' button that has replaced the 'Register' button next to the event name. If, having registered, the club needs to withdraw, please contact the EBU.

You could also use this 'Amend' facility should you need to nominate different members (a) to receive the booklets by post & (b) to download the files; but you will need to get the timing right!

2. Preparation

The nominated club representative will be able to download all the necessary files from their own personal page of the EBU Members Area: Deal files in various formats; travellers, curtain cards, and commentaries in 'pdf' format.

Please note: Although you can register for events a long time in advance (i.e. for any events that appear in the list), files for each event will not be available until about a month before the event.

When the time comes, the person nominated above needs to do the following:

- a. **Visit your personal page of the EBU Members Area** <https://www.ebu.co.uk/members/>, i.e. using your own EBU number & password, not the club's.

Once you have logged in you should see a button on the right hand side labelled '**Sim Pairs**', (below the 'Log Out' and 'Change Password' buttons, and below your list of Latest Sessions and Latest Master Points – i.e. it is further down the page than it appeared on the club's page).

- b. **Click on the 'Sim Pairs' button**

There now appears a list of all the files that are available:

- i) Travellers (numbered or un-numbered) with hand records.
- ii) Curtain Cards – separate pdf files for printing the front and back.
- iii) Deal files for pre-duplication (& for attaching to your results files if you like, so that the hands appear on your own club's website).
- iv) Commentary, either in plain A4 format, or in 'duplex format' which allows you to print as if in booklet style (but you have to collate & fold!)

Click on the item(s) that you wish to download.

In the case of the pdf files, or text files, this might open the files directly within whatever application you would normally use for this type of file. If you wish to save the files to disk, you might then need to choose 'save as' from the file menu.

In the case of dealing files, you should be prompted immediately with the 'save as' option to save to your choice of location.

Alternatively, click on the 'All files (zip)', which will download a compressed folder containing these files (you will then need to 'unzip' them).

3. Running the event

Heats must be of at least three tables, and all players must play at least 18 boards. (This means that if you have a half table, the length of the session must be longer than 18 boards, so that even those that sit out will have played 18).

Apart from this, there are no special requirements for participation. For example there is no restriction on the choice of movement: you can run a Howell or a Mitchell movement, two-winner or one-winner. Please use whatever is most suited to your club.

However, we strongly recommend that you do whatever you can to ensure that the field is balanced in terms of ability. If, for example, in a Mitchell movement your North-South field is significantly stronger than your East-West field, then this will distort the results nationally, even if you apply an arrow-switch. We suggest that players draw randomly for seats at the start, or toss a coin to determine orientation at each table.

Hands have been randomly pre-dealt for up to 36 boards, but we would normally expect clubs to play boards within the range 1-32, and we only provide commentaries for up to board 32. If, because of your club's particular preferences, you need to play boards in the range 33-36 (e.g. for 11-12 tables playing 3-board rounds, or 17+ tables playing 2-board rounds), then these will nevertheless count towards the overall results. However, we would happily advise clubs about alternative movements that use only boards in the range 1-32.

4. Scoring and submitting results

After scoring the event, **you need to submit a P2P file** as you would for any other club session. When you submit the P2P file via the Members Area, you will be prompted to confirm that the event is indeed part of the Sim Pairs event. If you do confirm this, then the session will automatically be submitted to our Sim Pairs system.

Thus there is no need to create and send more than one file. The same submission will cover your P2P submission as well as your Sim Pairs submission. Please do NOT try to submit a file to Ecats!

Some clubs often delay uploading their P2P files for a few days following 'normal' club nights. Whereas there is no immediate deadline for uploading Sim Pairs results, we believe that it is in the interests of your club members for you to upload your results as soon as possible. If you subsequently have to re-score the event, the facility will be there to over-write the file that you previously uploaded.

With Sim Pairs events, there is an increased likelihood that you will have visitors from other clubs. When you submit the P2P file, please ensure that you identify EBU numbers for these visitors. Please do not mark them as 'guests' unless you **know** that they are not EBU members.

5. Results

Results, including commentaries, will be available after the event via www.ebu.co.uk/sims/, which shows a list of all forthcoming and past events. Click on the appropriate event:

a. Ranking Lists

The default page shows the Overall Ranking list (top 100 places). To get to see more of this ranking list, navigate using the 'Next' and 'Previous' buttons at the top or bottom of the page.

You can search for specific players just by typing in their name on the 'search' box at the top of the page.

b. Club Results

The club where each pair played is shown against their name. Clicking on the club name retrieves the results for participants at that club only. Alternatively, click on 'List of Clubs' on the Right Hand Side, and then click on the name of the club that you want to see.

Players are ordered according to the National ranking, but their local position and percentage are also shown.

c. Personal Scorecards

Click on the names of the players, either in the main ranking list or the club-only ranking. This will give you their personal scores, board by board, with opponents and (whenever supplied) contract details.

d. Results on Particular Boards

Click on 'List of Boards' on the right hand side. A matrix of all board numbers appears. Just click on the board number to see all the 'frequencies' for that board.

This means that all scores are listed that have been achieved on that board, together with *the number of times* that they have been achieved, and the number of match points awarded for that score. You can limit this list to just 'common' results by clicking on 'Hide uncommon results'

Use the 'Next' and 'Previous' buttons (or 'First' and 'Last') to look at results on other boards.