

## ■ AUGUST 2013

- 9-18 Brighton Summer Meeting  
**Hilton Metropole Hotel**
- 12-14 Really Easy Congress – Novices and students  
**Hilton Metropole Hotel, Brighton**
- 12-15 Seniors Congress  
**Hilton Metropole Hotel, Brighton**
- 13-15 Next Step Congress  
**Hilton Metropole Hotel, Brighton**
- 23-25 Junior Teach-In  
**Loughborough University**
- 27-29 Telford Midweek Congress  
**Telford Hotel & Golf Resort, Shropshire**

## ■ SEPTEMBER 2013

- 6-8 Isle of Man Congress
- 9-13 EBU Autumn Sims, **Clubs**
- 14-15 Bedford Congress  
**Milton Keynes**
- 16-29 41st World Team Championships  
**Bali, Indonesia**
- 20-29 Guernsey Congress  
**La Trelade Country House Hotel**
- 28-29 Essex/Herts GP Weekend
- 28-29 Surrey GP Weekend
- 28-29 Derbyshire GP Weekend  
**EMBA, Spondon**
- 29 Cornwall GP Swiss Teams  
**White Hart Hotel, Launceston**
- 29 Westmorland GP Swiss Pair  
**Castle Green Hotel, Kendal**

## ■ OCTOBER 2013

- 4-6 West of England Congress
- 5-6 Felixstowe Congress
- 5-6 Great Northern Swiss Pairs  
**Hilton Leeds City Hotel**
- 5-6 Premier League 1st w/e  
**Manchester Bridge Club**
- 7-11 British Sims, **Clubs**
- 9-15 Overseas Congress Lake Garda  
**Grand Hotel Gardone**
- 12-13 Premier League 2nd w/e  
**Div. 1 Richmond**  
**Div. 2 Wimbledon**
- 18-20 Autumn Congress  
**Stratford-upon-Avon**
- 25-28 Really Easy Autumn Break  
**Wroxton House Hotel, Oxon**
- 26-27 Malvern Congress
- 26-27 Lancashire Congress
- 26-27 Kent Congress

## ■ NOVEMBER 2013

- 1-3 Seniors Congress  
**Daventry Hotel**
- 8-10 North East Congress
- 8-10 Premier League 3rd w/e  
**West Midlands BC, Solihull**
- 15-17 Seniors Camrose Trials  
**Richmond Bridge Club**
- 16-17 Middlesex Congress, **Barnet**
- 23-24 Tollemache Cup Qualifier  
**Daventry Hotel**



## LAWS & ETHICS UPDATE

THE L&E has reviewed its publications and published new editions online effective from August 1st.

The new publications are:

1. **The Blue Book:** This replaces the *Orange* and *Tangerine* Books and is half the length of the previous *Orange Book*. There were sufficient different versions of the *Orange Book* floating around that a decision was made to have a clean break and a new colour.
2. **The White Book:** This is about fifty pages shorter than the previous version. It contains some material transferred from the old *Orange Book* and is aimed at Tournament Directors, Clubs and Organisers.

My thanks go to all the volunteers who have commented on, contributed to, and proof-read our new publications.

### What are the Major Changes Affecting Players?

1. **Announcements:** These have been extended, so that you will now announce a natural 2NT opening (by saying the range) and the responses of 3♣ (assuming it is normal four-card Stayman) and 3♦/3♥ (assuming they are transfers). The pattern will be the same as for a 1NT announcement. It won't apply to overcalls, again exactly like the scheme relating to 1NT openings.

The second change is announcing short minor-suit openings. If 1♣ or 1♦ can be two, one or no cards, then you will announce by saying e.g. 'May be two'. The reason for this extension is because a lot more people are playing five-card majors with a short club than were when announcements started. If 1♣ is strong, forcing and artificial – a Precision 1♣ for example – then it will continue to be alerted.

2. **Alerting:** There are minor changes to alerting over the level of 3NT. You will now alert any suit bid on the first round of the auction so that in auctions such as 1NT – Pass – 4♥ showing spades, as well as 2♥ Weak from the opposition – 4♣ (overcall, showing clubs and spades) the 4♥ and 4♣ bids will now be alerted. Although you can ask when

such bids are made against you, you may give some of your hand away to opponents or put partner in a tough position. If you don't ask, there is no reasonable way of knowing. We already alert opening bids above 3NT, so the regulation will become alerting any suit bid on the first round (there is a definition of this to ensure that if we alert 1NT – Pass – 4♥ we will also alert Pass – Pass – 1NT – Pass – 4♥). We are *not* going back to alerting Blackwood.

3. **Regulations for opening strong artificial two-of-a-suit bids:** No change.
4. **Alerting of doubles:** No change.
5. **Level 3:** Scrapped. No EBU tournaments have been held for some time using this level. For clubs who have used this level and wish to continue to play something simpler, the *Blue Book* includes a short list of agreements which might be excluded for a simpler game. Clubs, of course, are free to determine their own regulations for agreements, although the vast majority prefer to stick to a published level.
6. **Agreements:** There are some minor amendments to what is allowed. This is tidying up for greater consistency and clarity rather than a substantial change.

The new *White Book* also includes a revised victory point scale for teams events which applies to all EBU-run events from September 1st onwards. Counties and Clubs are likely to wish to switch to this sooner rather than later. The common scales are in the diary and on the EBU website. There is also, on the website, a facility to enter any number of boards so a scale can be determined for matches of an unusual length. The change results from the World Bridge Federation introducing a new scale for its events, which the EBU has decided to follow. In a standard Swiss Teams match of, say, seven boards, the amount needed to obtain a 20-0 score will rise from 30 to 36 IMPs. There are also scales which include decimal places but these will only be used initially for such events as trials and international matches.

(Jeremy Dhondy)