

# National Pairs Regional Finals 2026

## Notes for organisers, TDs, scorers

2026-03-18

### Overview

There are ten heats on both RealBridge and BBO, in 5 regions, run by counties in the region.

The heats will be combined within each region to produce a regional trophy winner, and combined nationally to produce an overall ranking list to determine qualification for the National Pairs Final.

**It is therefore important that every heat uses the hand files sent in advance.**

### Set-up

In advance, you need to identify entered players in pairs, and make sure you have BBO usernames for players in a BBO heat.

BBO heats with more than 20 tables can be run as multiple sections, so each section can play a 1-winner movement.

Play boards 1-48 – **must use the .lin or .pbn !**

Start at 11:30, with a break after 24 boards. Break of 30-40 minutes, restart at 3:00pm.

Jonathan (BBO) and Robin (RealBridge) can advise/review set-up/configuration.

### Movements

7 or 8 tables: Howell, 12 x 4-board rounds.

9 to 12 tables: Howell, 16 x 3-board rounds

13+ tables: Howell, 24 x 2-board rounds

16+ tables: Mitchell, 16 x 3-board rounds

24+ tables: Mitchell, 24 x 2-board rounds

### BBO

Use .lin file, include-list of entrants, programmed break.

BBO heats should use robot pairs to fill a half-table.

If the heat is sufficiently large, the heat can be run as two section.

### RealBridge

Use .pbn file.

No screens. Face-to-face alerts, not self-alerts – this is what the National Final will do.

Can use initial seating position to control who can sit at tables in the event.

Can use 'Random starting positions'.

## Scoring and uploads

### Heat results – as XML

The results of the heats must be uploaded by the organising body – this upload is processed for NGS and is used to invoice the organisers. The results of the heat must be sent to the 'national scorer' for merging into regional and national results. The results of the heat should also be published locally so players can see their results while the regional/national results are being merged.

### Local results

(If a BBO heat has more than one section, the scorer should produce a merged event.)

Identify all players in the results file by real name and EBU number (not BBO username).

No master points on the heat results.

Publish each heat locally (for example, on the heat-organiser's BridgeWebs site).

### Send to the national scorer

If possible, include the name of the region in the name of the event, and in the file name.

Send the XML file from each heat to [robin@ebu.co.uk](mailto:robin@ebu.co.uk).

### Upload to My EBU

The heats for this event are 'double weighted' for NGS – this is achieved by marking the master point scale as 'EBU' (although the heats do not issue master points).

Edit the XML before upload to replace

```
<MASTER_POINT_SCALE></MASTER_POINT_SCALE>
```

with

```
<MASTER_POINT_SCALE>EBU</MASTER_POINT_SCALE>
```

Upload the XML from the heat to EBU for NGS: with UMS code 92.

## Regional/National results

Robin will combine heats into regional list and an overall national list for qualification.

Regional/National results will appear on the EBU results page.

The regional results determine the regional final trophy winner.

Master points are awarded in the national results.

## Small heats

If there are heats with fewer than seven tables please contact Jonathan or Robin re movements.

4 tables: Howell, 6 rounds of 8 boards.      5/6 tables; Howell, 8 rounds of 6 boards.

Robin Barker

EBU Deputy Chief TD

NOTE: Robin is away on Saturday – and may not get home until Sunday.

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