

Northamptonshire Contract Bridge



Association

40th Anniversary 1962 – 2002

HOW IT ALL BEGAN

In 1961 Doug Eden and Herb Cherry started a bridge club for men in Wellingborough. At that time there was a club in Peterborough and an afternoon ladies club in Kettering, and that was all. The Wellingborough Mens' club flourished and in 1962 Doug and Herb turned their attention to the formation of a County Association.

The English Bridge Union put them in touch with Philip Broke at Peterborough and warned them that they needed at least 50 members to start a County Association. At first they found only 35 members of Wellingborough and Peterborough who were interested; but with a lot of hard work and some imagination they eventually came up with 50 names and the stage was set for the inaugural meeting on Tuesday 8th May 1962.

At this meeting Doug Eden was elected as Chairman, Herb Cherry as Secretary and Geoff Walshaw was appointed as Treasurer.

During the first year the County subscription was 17V2p of which 12V2p went to the EBU and 5p to the County. In 1982 the corresponding sums were £3 and £1. This year they are £14 and £5. In 1962 the table fee was 25p in 1982 it was 40p and today it is £1.50.

The following is a brief history of the development of the clubs that are affiliated to Northamptonshire.

Wellingborough

The club was formed in 1961 when about 30 interested members attended a meeting in response to an advertisement placed in the local press by Doug Eden. Sessions were held in the Hind Hotel on Monday evenings. In 1965 they acquired rooms in Cambridge Street and then in 1995 they moved to their present premises in the British Railways Sports Club. Frank Marchant is an original member. The club meets on Monday & Friday and has an average of 5 tables. They have c. 40 members and the table fee is £1.50.

Kettering

The club held their inaugural meeting on 7th March 1963 when 48 people attended. L.J. Lucock was appointed chairman and John Manning secretary. They first met at the Cooperative Education Centre in King Street. Over the years the club has met at the Manor House, and the Old Evening Telegraph Building before finally purchasing their own premises, The Kingdom Hall, in Field Street in 1985. Money was raised through bonds and loans (all of which have been repaid) and the club is indebted to John Swan for the work that he put into this purchase. There are regular meetings every day except Sunday, with beginners' sessions, teaching sessions and a Ladies afternoon. The most popular duplicate evening is Tuesday with 12-15 tables. There are 130 members, and the table fee is £1.50.

Northampton

The first meeting was held on 5th July 1962 with 48 members present and with C. Hodgill in the chair. They acquired the premises at 16 The Crescent in August 1965 and have remained there ever since. Len Shulman is a founder member and over the years they were fortunate to have the services of Nora Ward who was secretary from 1975 until her death in 1997. The Club meets on Mon. Tues. & Thurs. with the main competition night being Tuesday with an average of 10 tables. There are c. 120 members and the table fee is £1.50.

Peterborough

The club was formed in 1956 under the Chairmanship of B.Murphy with R.Ray as secretary. They joined the EBU in 1961 and had a variety of meeting places before moving to permanent premises in the AEW Hall in Lincoln Road. Philip & Jean Broke and Bill & Betty Upcott-Gill were the leading members for many years and it was Philip Broke who masterminded the move to their present premises in the New England Complex in Lincoln Road which they purchased in 1985. They meet regularly on Mon. & Wed. averaging 6 tables They have c.90 members and the table fee is £1.50

Rushden

The club was started in 1965 with Charles Metcalfe in charge. They affiliated to the County and the club was very successful whilst he ran it but it did not survive when he left the district at the end of the year.

Stamford

The club was formed in 1967 when there were three meetings at Blackstones followed by six meetings at the White Heather Cafe before moving to the Congregational Hall in September 1967. In 1969 it moved to the Mentally Handicap Centre in Bath Row and finally in 1977 to the Arts Centre.

David and Margaret Simpson, Colin Gildon and David Williams were the prime movers in starting the club with considerable help from Philip and Jean Broke. From the original members in 1967 only David and Pat Williams and Bruce and Cecily McKenzie are still members. The club meets on Monday afternoon and on Tuesday and Thursday evenings for duplicate. Tuesday is the main competition night with an average 12-13 tables from their 100+ members. The table fee is £1.50

Market Harborough

The club was formed in the early 1970s, Eric Martin being one of the founder members. At the moment they do not get involved as a club in the County Competitions. They meet at The Countryman in Gt Bowden on a Monday evening. They average 5-7 tables and charge a table fee of £1.

Raunds

The club was formed in 1973 with N.Davis as secretary. As a club they are not involved in the County scene but enjoy their bridge at Raunds.

Oundle

The first meeting of the club was held in September 1981 with Marie Wikeley in the chair. Daphne Barber and Joan Ackroyd are founder members that still play regularly. It started as a rubber bridge club and began duplicate in 1985. The early meetings were held in the Talbot Hotel and then in 1990 the club moved to The Tennis Club. They meet on Monday and Thursday evenings and average 6 tables from their 40 members. Table fee is £1.50.

Towcester

The club was formed in 1986 with founder members being Diane Harris, John Frith, Irene Ellender, Peter and Priscilla Mason, Colin and Kay Amos, Ron and Gwen Bicknell, Bob Neville, Tery Brightmore and Margaret Holton.

They meet on Tuesday evening and average 11-12 tables from their 90 members. Table fee is £1.50.

Orton

The club was formed in 1987 when there were meetings in Bushfield School. It was run by M. Walker with 3-4 tables. In 1991 they moved to their present premises at the Orton Wistow Complex with Douglas Eden running the club. They meet on Monday and Friday evenings, averaging 10 tables from their 85 members. Table fee is £1.50.

Kingsley

The club held its first meeting on 18th August 1989 through the desire to have a non-smoking club. Patrick Rawlinson and Tony Youel were the prime movers and the initial meetings were in St. Matthews' Parish Centre. They moved to their present premises in Headlands School in 1991. They meet on Friday evenings and average 12-13 tables from their 100 members. Table fee is £1.00.

OFFICIALS

YEAR	CHAIRMAN	SECRETARY	TREASURER
1962-63	D.O.Eden	H.A.Cherry	G.Walshaw
1963-64	D.O.Eden	H.A.Cherry	G.Walshaw
1964-65	D.O.Eden	H.A.Cherry	G.Walshaw
1965-66	D.O.Eden	H.A.Cherry	G.Walshaw
1966-67	D.O.Eden	H.A.Cherry	G.Walshaw
1967-68	J.R.Manning	L.J.Lacock	J.T.Mann
1968-69	J.R.Manning	L.J.Lacock	J.T.Mann
1969-70	W.R.Upcott-Gill	G.W.Laing	J.T.Mann
1970-71	W.R.Upcott-Gill	G.W.Laing	S.Bowran
1971-72	E.A.Beard	G.W.Laing	S.Bowran
1972-73	E.A.Beard	G.W.Laing	S.Bowran
1973-74	P.A.Broke	Mrs.E.D.Manning	S.Bowran
1974-75	P.A.Broke	Mrs.E.D.Manning	S.Bowran
1975-76	G.W.Laing	Mrs.E.D.Manning	S.Bowran
1976-77	G.W.Laing	Mrs.E.D.Manning	S.Bowran
1977-78	W.R.Upcott-Gill	Mrs.E.D.Manning	S.Bowran
1978-79	W.R.Upcott-Gill	Mrs.E.D.Manning	S.Bowran
1979-80	P.G.Thorne	Mrs.E.D.Manning	S.Bowran
1980-81	P.G.Thorne	Mrs.E.D.Manning	S.Bowran
1981-82	G.Walshaw	Mrs.E.D.Manning	S.Bowran
1982-83	G.Walshaw	Mrs.E.D.Manning	M.Gamblin
1983-84	D.H.Dyer	G.Walshaw	M.Gamblin
1984-85	D.H.Dyer	G.Walshaw	Mrs.S.Fountain
1985-86	Mrs.E.D.Manning	G.Walshaw	Mrs.S.Fountain
1986-87	P.Fountain	D.Penniston-Bird	Mrs.S.Fountain
1987-88	P.Fountain	P.Rowlett	Mrs.S.Fountain
1988-89	W.J..Markham	P.Rowlett	D.Williams
1989-90	W.J.Markham	D.Williams	R.Blincow
1990-91	J.Young	D.Williams	R.Blincow
1991-92	J.Young	D.Williams	M.J.Wiggins
1992-93	J.P.Walshaw	Mrs.S.Evans-Evans	M.J.Wiggins
1993-94	J.P.Walshaw	Mrs.S.Evans-Evans	M.J.Wiggins
1994-95	D.H.Dyer	Mrs.S.Evans-Evans	M.J.Wiggins
1995-96	D.H.Dyer	Mrs.S.Evans-Evans	M.J.Wiggins
1996-97	D.H.Dyer	Mrs.S.Evans-Evans	M.J.Wiggins
1997-98	R.H.Vajda	Mrs.S.Evans-Evans	M.J.Wiggins
1998-99	R.H.Vajda	Miss L.Manning	M.J.Wiggins
1999-00	W.J.Markham	Miss L.Manning	M.J.Wiggins
2000-01	W.J.Markham	Miss L.Manning	M.J.Wiggins
2001-02	B.M.McKenzie	Miss L.Manning	M.J.Wiggins

COMPETITIONS

At the inaugural meeting Philip & Jean Broke offered a trophy for a championship knock-out-team-of-four event. This competition has been running unchanged since then and is the County's premier event.

In the first year Zaidee Lerner and her father Alec Murchie offered a cup for the best performance in a series of monthly pairs events. In the second year a two-session pairs event was arranged as the final competition of the year and Doug Eden presented a cup for it. There have been various changes to the form of the Murchie-Lerner since the days of 16-20 tables at Corby but the Eden Cup is as originally designed.

In 1968 Connie Kite presented a trophy for an inter-club teams of eight competition. She called it The Lakeland Trophy after her favourite part of England.

The winners of the major competitions are shown in the following pages.

The other main County Competitions are;

Betts Bowl - for the first round losers in the Broke Cup

Kettering Trophy - a two session teams-of-four event held on the same day as the Lakeland

Naturalist Salver - a Swiss teams-of-four event

Geoff Walshaw Cup - a knock-out rubber bridge event

Winter League - Six linked multiple teams events, from September to February played in one or two divisions.

The County runs four inter club teams leagues with promotion and demotion. This year there are twenty-three teams competing. The County enters three teams-of-eight in the Eastern Counties League and until this year have also played in the Dawes League. Northamptonshire have qualified for the Tollemache final several times in recent years.

Members of the County have made their mark outside the County, Notably Philip Broke who was a respected director and was elected as vice-president of the EBU. John Manning analysed the problem of how to produce a single winner in a pairs competition and his conclusion, that in a single session, single section, switched Mitchell movement the fairest result is obtained by switching one eighth of the boards, was accepted by the EBU and in 1979 was published in the Bulletin of the Institute of Mathematics. Edwin Blandon invented an interesting series of movements, called Hesitation Mitchells, suitable for the more awkward numbers of tables. These were written up in Bridge Magazine in 1971.

Individuals who have had success in the national scene include Colin Grayson & Peter Fountain won the major pairs event at the Brighton Congress, and have played in a Camrose pre-trial. Bill Markham & Peter Hindley won the Corwen. Jo Skillern & Peter Fountain qualified to play in the European Championship by winning the Autumn Congress and Alastair Brodie & Don MacFarlane joined them in the European Championship by winning the National pairs. Jo Skillern & Peter Fountain have also won the Life Masters event. John Young has, this year, been non-playing captain in a Camrose match.

A great deal of bridge is played in the County and maybe because of the multiplicity of events it is sometimes felt that some events do not get the support which they merit. However, there are

many members in the County who do a lot of work to enable the members to enjoy their bridge. It is maybe unwise to name anyone because it is inevitable that someone who quietly and efficiently gets on with his or her job will be omitted. However for many years recently, the County has been able to rely on Mike Wiggins as Treasurer, Colin Tuton as League Secretary, Jo Skillern as team selector and Peter Fountain as Match Secretary and calendar co-ordinator. Their work has greatly helped each one of us to enjoy our bridge in the County. But let us not forget that the enjoyment of the majority is more important than the success of the few.

BROKE CUP

1963-64 H.A.Cherry,D.O.Eden,Dr. D.Miller, G.Walshaw
 1963-64 L.Shulman, J.Charlton, G.H.Denton, R.R.Garrett
 1964-65 G.W.Laing, G.Walshaw, Dr. & Mrs. D.Miller
 1965-66 H.A.Cherry, D.O.Eden, G.H.Denton, R.R.Garrett
 1966-67 Mrs.E.A.Bear, Mrs.E.V.Corps, B.White, M.A.Wilson
 1967-68 Mr. & Mrs. P.A.Broke.Mr. & Mrs. W.R.Upcott-Gill
 1968-69 Mr. & Mrs. P.A.Broge, Mr.& Mrs. W.R.Upcott-Gill
 1969-70 G.W.Laing, G.Walshaw, J.R.Manning, J.G.Bradley
 1970-71 L.Shulman, J.G.Bradley, B.M.Barrett, J.E.BIandon
 1971-72 G.W.Laing, G.Walshaw, Mr. & Mrs. J.R.Manning
 1972-73 D.I.Betts, R.Parker, C.E.Grayson, P.Fountain, D.P.Simpson, C.N.Wiggins
 1973-74 D.I.Betts, R.Parker, C.E.Grayson, P.Fountain, D.P.Simpson, C.N.Wiggins
 1974-75 P.Gupta, A.J.W.Benn, D.C.Stringer, B.M.Barrett
 1975-76 P.Gupta, A.J.W.Benn, J.M.Clark, B.C.Smith
 1976-77 D.I.Betts, C.E.Grayson, C.N.Wiggins, M.Carmichael, P.Fountain
 1977-78 D.I.Betts, C.E.Grayson, C.N.Wiggins, M.Carmichael, P.Fountain
 1978-79 D.I.Betts, C.E.Grayson, I.Ferguson, P.Fountain
 1979-80 D.I.Betts, C.E.Grayson, Mr. & Mrs. I.Ferguson, C.N.Wiggins, P.Fountain
 1980-81 P.R.Hindley, J.P.Walshaw, Mr. & Mrs. R.Baker
 1981-82 P.R.Hindley, J.P.Walshaw, Mr. & Mrs. R.Baker
 1982-83 D.H.Dyer, R.C.Howie, J.R.Sansom, A.Whelan
 1983-84 P.R.Hindley, J.P.Walshaw, W.J.Markham, G.Walshaw
 1984-85 R.Barrett, J.M.Clark, A.J.W.Benn, J.Blandon, B.C.Smith
 1985-86 W.J.Markham, Mrs.E.Manning, P.R.Hindleu, J.P.Walshaw
 1986-87 W.J.Markham, A.Melbourn, J.P.Walshaw, P.R.Hindley
 1987-88 B.Barrett, P.Gupta, P.Brunsch, S.Raven, R.Pool
 1988-89 J.Young, C.Pickard, S.Hamill, J.Deacon, C.Shepherd
 1989-90 Mr. & Mrs. R.Coltman, Mr. & Mrs. A.S.Scarborough
 1990-91 J.Young, J.Deacon, T.Thrower, P.Long
 1991-92 J.P.Walshaw, P.Coleman, P.R.Hindley, W.J.Markham
 1992-93 P.Fountain, MrsJ.Skillern, R.F.Vadja, Mrs. M.Dowell
 1993-94 J.Young, D.Matthews, Mr. & Mrs. A.S.Scarborough
 1994-95 J.Young, D.Matthews, J.Deacon, W.Taylor
 1995-96 J.Young, D.Matthews, J.Deacon, W.Taylor
 1996-97 J.Young, C.Pickard, J.Deacon, W.Taylor
 1997-98 C.N.Wiggins, Mrs.M.Bryant, G.Winterburn, T.Wray
 1998-99 A.Brodie, D.A.MacFarlane, J.Deacon, W.Taylor
 1999-00 A.Brodie, D.A.MacFarlane, P.Fountain, MrsJ.Skillern
 2000-01 A.Brodie, D.A.MacFarlane, P.Fountain, MrsJ.Skillern, C.Melvin

	EDEN CUP	MURCHIE-LERNER
1962-63		Mr. & Mrs. W.R.Upcott-Gill
1963-64	G.W.Laing & G.Ransley	Mr. & Mrs. W.R.Upcott-Gill
1964-65	E.C.Fox & Mrs. Haylock	E.C.Fox & S.Paton
1965-66	E.C.Fox & Mrs. Haylock	Mr. & Mrs. W.R.Upcott-Gill
1966-67	Dr. & Mrs . D.B.Miller	H.A.Cherry & D.O.Eden
1967-68	D.White & M.A.Wilson	Mr. & Mrs. W.R.Upcott-Gill
1968-69	Mr. & Mrs. P.A.Broke	Mr. & Mrs. W.R.Upcott-Gill
1969-70	C.E.Grayson & W.Routledge	B M .Barrett & J.M.Blandon
1970-71	Mr. & Mrs. W.R.Upcott-Gill	Mr. & Mrs. E.A.Beard
1971-72	Mr. & Mrs. W.J.Taylor	J.G.Bradley & L.Shulman
1972-73	G.Walshaw & G.Ransley	Mr. & Mrs. W.R.Upcott-Gill (tied) P.Gupta & A.J.W.Benn
1973-74	R.Parker & C.N.Wiggins	P.Fountain & C.E.Grayson
1974-75	R.Parker & Mrs. J.Broke	P.Gupta & A.J.W.Benn
1975-76	P.Fountain & D.I.Betts	D.H.Dyer & D.C.Howie
1976-77	Mr. & Mrs. W.R.Upcott-Gill	C. E.Grayson & C.N.Wiggins
1977-78	P.R.Hindley & J.P.Walshaw	P.Fountain & D.I.Betts
1978-79	H.J.Burbage & D.Seeley	P.Gupta & A.J.W.Benn
1979-80	P.R.Hindley & J.P.Walshaw	P.Gupta & A.J.W.Benn
1980-81	Mr. & Mrs. W.R.Upcott-Gill	G.Walshaw & W.J.Markham
1981-82	R.A.Pool & S.Raven	G.Walshaw & W.J.Markham
1982-83	P.Gupta & A.J.W.Benn	D.H.Dyer & D.C.Howie
1983-84	P.R.Hindley & J.P.Walshaw	F.Marchant & Mrs. P.Peacher
1984-85	J.Hole & P.Coleman	D.H.Dyer & J.Sansom
1985-86	J.R.Manning & A.Ashworth	J.R.Manning & A.Ashworth
1986-87	J.P.Walshaw & P.Coleman	Mr. & Mrs. D.Moss
1987-88	L.Shulman & J.Haynes	D.Williams & A.Whelan
1988-89	P.R.Hindley & W.J.Markham	J.Young & J.P.Walshaw
1989-90	P.Double & K.Thomas	Mr. & Mrs. G.Sobey
1990-91	D.Matthews & J.Young	T.Thrower & L.Haynes
1991-92	P.R.Hindley & W.J.Markham	J.Gianowski & B.Richardson
1992-93	C.Melvin & J.Anstead	Miss L.Manning & Mrs.S.Fountain
1993-94	C.Melvin & Mrs.S.AImond	T.Thrower & C.Pickard
1994-95	P.R.Hindley & W.J.Markham	P.Fountain & Mrs.J.Skillern
1995-96	E.F.Marchant & Mrs.P.Peacher	N.H.Webb & Mrs.M.Bryant
1996-97	J.Young & C.Jagger	T.Thrower & M.Auger
1997-98	P.R.Hindley & W.J.Markham	M.J.Wiggins & R.C.King
1998-99	A.Brodie & D.A.MacFarlane	K.H.Hope-Jones & J.A.Anstead
1999-00	P.Fountain & Mrs.J.Skillern	C.Tuton & B.Smith
2000-01	R.Gibson & E.Jones	Mr. & Mrs. T.R.King
2001-02	J.Deacon & C.Wormleighton	Mr. & Mrs. J.Dutton

LAKELAND TROPHY

1968	Kettering	1985	Kettering
1969	Peterborough	1986	Kettering A
1970	Peterborough	1987	Kettering A
1971	Kettering	1988	Kettering A
1972	Northampton	1989	Kettering A
1973	Northampton	1990	Peterborough A
1974	Peterborough	1991	Kettering A
1975	Kettering	1992	Northampton A
1976	Kettering	1993	Peterborough A
1977	Peterborough	1994	Peterborough A
1978	Peterborough	1995	Peterborough A
1979	Peterborough	1996	Peterborough A
1980	Peterborough	1997	Kettering A
1981	Wellingborough	1998	Peterborough A
1982	Kettering	1999	Kettering A
1983	Northampton	2000	Kettering A
1984	Peterborough	2001	Peterborough A

I am indebted to Eileen Manning for much of the information about the early days of the N.C.B.A. It has been unashamedly copied from the Souvenir Programme that she produced for the 21st Anniversary in 1983. And my thanks to the club secretaries for the information which they sent to me.

Bruce McKenzie