

The Tollemache Qualifier

The Tollemache Qualifier was played in Birmingham over the weekend of 19th and 20th November. Full details of the hand records and results can be found on the EBU web site.

The 35 county teams were divided into four groups. Northants were in Group A and played a round robin of 12 boards against each of the other 8 teams.

Our Group was won convincingly by Berks & Bucks - who won the final in 2013 and 2014. Manchester was second, just one VP ahead of Lancashire. Good luck to both in the final.

We managed to beat Manchester (runners up in last year's final), the North East (winners in 2011) and the Channel Islands. We lost to Berks & Bucks, Lancashire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Norfolk. Finishing 8th was a disappointment though our score of 68 VPs was only 9 VPs behind the 4th placed team.

The other 8 teams fielded 72 players. Of these, at least 26 have represented their country, won the Tollemache, or won the Gold Cup (the premier teams of 4 knockout event in Britain).

Our team was Mike Trask, Mark Tilley, Ufuk Cotuk, Jim Deacon, Chris Wormleighton, Robert Miller, Daniel Baines, Trevor Thrower and Marcus Witt.