



Newsletter Winter 2019 Issue 13

Welcome to the Winter 2019 issue of the Newsletter. We hope you will enjoy the contributions from various clubs demonstrating the diversity and depth of Bridge related activities throughout the county.

Please send us more of the same in 2019 as we are keen to be as representative as possible, so if your club has something to tell us about what they are doing we want to hear, as we are sure other members will too.

In the meantime we wish you all a peaceful and Masterpointful New Year.

Our motto is 'Promoting Bridge for All in Nottinghamshire' - tell us how we can help achieve this.

Best Wishes♥

Editor

Have fun with Bridge in 2019

♠COUNTY NEWS

Best wishes for a great 2019 for everyone.

1. **Changes to the County Committee-** we are enhanced by Sue McIntosh (Retford) and Maciej Lejman (Nottingham/Woodborough), which now means that almost all Notts EBU clubs are represented on the committee.

This is an important thing as the County want to act in a way to support clubs and Bridge in Nottinghamshire, so we need your views to achieve this. There is scope for other new members, especially those from currently unrepresented clubs; if anyone wants to join us, just ask you will be very welcome.

2. **Paul Sweet takes over as Editor** of the Newsletter from 2019- I've done about 13 issues (yes its been going that long...) and thank Paul immensely for stepping into the breach to release my time for other Bridge matters. Please contact Paul if you want articles put in the newsletter- he doesn't have time to chase up for copy as he volunteers in other ways to County & Club Bridge. What a star!!

3. **The County Newsletter**- as requested by you, this needs to be short and more regular so whether advertising events or celebrating results thereof, your articles & photos need to be short and pithy, maybe referring to a fuller article on your own website.

Celebrating results is always good especially please send in photos - it's a difficult thing to win a drive or competition- and whilst fun is in the social element of taking part, Bridge **is** a competitive game and the ultimate objective is to win. So celebrate *with* the winner in a constructive manner (even though if you'd had a different lead *you* might well have won!!) and be a bit modest (very English I know!!) when you do win. It's EBU's 'Best Behaviour at Bridge' to congratulate & not be sour; to be modest & not gloat!

4. **County Events.** You will have seen a short email from me about future County events sent out by Clare recently (for Data Protection Clare is the only one who holds all the email addresses). A copy is on our website.

Please attend the events that the County and Clubs put on- they are invariably suitable for anyone. If you are unsure simply ask the events manager Graham Brindley or any committee member. Particularly please note that NCBA's **first blue points event is on 21 February**. Numbers will be limited so please book in as soon as possible.

5. **Promotional material:** NCBA has purchased some general fliers/signage and roll up banners promoting bridge. These are available to borrow gratis for any EBU events that are put on in Nottinghamshire. Simply contact myself or Clare.

6. **VERY IMPORTANT- County Night.** From February this is now on **EVERY SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH** at NBC. Do not think that as it is 'County Night' it is only for County players..... it is called County Night as it is run by the County Association! Everyone is welcome and there is the great opportunity to learn from those better than you. **Remember: there is always someone better, and someone worse, than you are.**

For aspiring, or established, County players, it is expected that you will attend some County nights throughout the year. See you on 13 February, the next County Night.

7. **NCBA organizes a Clubs Conference** every few years when there is a need. The next one will be on 15 March 2019 at Ramsdale Golf Course. The theme is Teaching and Membership, given the need to build and retain numbers and improve capabilities. Please discuss in your Clubs who will represent your club. We ideally need Chairs, Secretaries, committee members as well as Teachers. You are invited to send the names (2-3 per club) to Clare as soon as possible but Clare will be issuing more information on this event in due course.

Toni Smith
NCBA Chair

Click [here](#) to access county matches results from the NCBA website.

Click [here](#) for the results and information from the match against Staffordshire /Shropshire on the 9th December.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PLAYING FOR THE COUNTY IN THE FORTHCOMING COUNTY LEAGUE MATCHES YOU NEED TO CONTACT SHIRLEY ASHTARI THE COUNTY TEAMS ORGANISER ASAP

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## **♠ FORTHCOMING COMPETITIONS & EVENTS**

Contact Events Manager Graham [graham@brindley57.plus.com](mailto:graham@brindley57.plus.com)

Or

Look at the [NCBA](#) or relevant club website for more information.

### **Summary:**

Knock out T04 27 January NCBA

Journal Cup 17 March NBC

Blue Points daytime event 21 Feb NCBA

Café Bridge 24 April the NCBridge team

Leicestershire Green Point 2 March

Clubs Conference 15 March NCBA

## **♠ CLUB NEWS**

### **Keyworth/Nottingham**

In the summer I joined the committee of Notts C.B.A. bit unfortunately couldn't make the first meeting. Not a problem I was told. At the next meeting I was greeted with smiles all round and congratulated on being elected County Youth officer. A lesson to be learned there. What did this role mean? I scratched my head and made enquiries. Was Minibridge being taught in any schools in Notts I asked? Eventually I discovered that it was being taught at Willow Brook Primary School in Keyworth by Frances Linehan and her team of helpers. I contacted Frances and arranged to

observe a class in action on a wet windy November day. I arrived at met Frances and her team of Morag McMullen, Trish Peregrine, Sheena Linehan and Mrs Hollingshead the teaching Assistant. The decibel level reached Cape Canaveral launch levels as the children poured into the classroom, but they soon settled down and to my surprise started to play a full hand of thirteen cards with unnerving confidence. I was told I was watching the beginners, the old hands, at another table, were finessing with a flourish. I was invited to join them, but declined. It's bad enough being embarrassed by some faux pas at your local club, but being shown up by ten year olds who have only being playing a few months, is another matter.

Afterwards I asked Frances what was involved. She emphasized to me that without the dedicated support and enthusiasm of her helpers and, of course the school, the venture would not be possible. Some have dropped out or found it difficult to come every week, so she asked if anyone living in the vicinity, willing to give an hour of their time once a week while the sessions are running, or even every now and then, would be made very welcome. I can certainly believe that, because the most memorable feature of the visit was the fact that everyone had a smile on their face, unlike some club nights! So, if you're interested, contact Keyworth Bridge Club or contact Notts C.B.A. if you are thinking of starting your own Minibridge class.

Paul Sweet

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### **Café Bridge Newark - 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018:**

Café Bridge Nottingham continues to be a very successful phenomenon. It combines the fascination of playing the wonderful game of Bridge in a spirit of fun and enjoyment with fundraising on an impressive scale. In the eleven events since 2012 thousands of £££'s have been donated to charity. Café bridge has become a must go to event!

#### ***Newark was another huge success***

Our last happening was in Newark on 13th November, with 80 people, more than 20 of them new to Café Bridge, joining us for the day. The weather was kind to us - blue skies and warm sun. It is a major logistical challenge to get that many circulating round five different cafés and bars to play bridge, have lunch, and come together at the end of the day in reasonable time for drinks, prizes, raffles, and debrief. But it all worked with almost military precision.

The standard of play varied but most importantly it was played in good spirits. One of the objects of the exercise is to generate interest among the general public in the hope that one or two may take up the game - we were certainly gazed upon with some curiosity from time to time.

The winners were Dick Milne and Shirley Ashtari and the runners up were Sue and Dave Cobley. We also offered a little something to those who came nearest to the 50% and this prize was shared between Pauline & David Tillcock and Heather Darwent & Marian Griew.

With a contribution from the prizes raffled off, the total sum raised for Lincs. & Notts. Air Ambulance was an impressive £1,500. Many thanks to the five venues who hosted this rather unusual event, The Ram, Gannets, The Old Post Office, The Queen's Head, and Water's Edge. The Ram in particular did us proud by hosting us at the beginning and end of the day for the main welcome and debriefing.

The next Café Bridge event will be in Lace Market area of Nottingham on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2019. Details will be communicated in the New Year. If you are on our emailing list, you will receive an invitation in plenty of time. If you would like to be added to our contact list, please email [nottinghamcafebridge@gmail.com](mailto:nottinghamcafebridge@gmail.com) - we hope to see you there.



**1<sup>st</sup> - Dick Milne and Shirley Ashtari**



**2<sup>nd</sup> - Dave and Sue Cobley**



**Time for Lunch**



**Bridge in full flow**



# Woodborough Bridge Club

Established in 1986 ♦ Affiliated to the EBU



Tremendous support from members of local bridge clubs ensured that we were at capacity for our annual charity fund raising event.

72 competitors congregated at Woodborough Village hall on Wednesday 28 November to take part in a bridge competition to raise money for Lincs & Notts Air Ambulance, the club's chosen charity for 2018.

Susan Curtis, a volunteer with the Charity attended the event and explained that a new helicopter has recently been commissioned. Capable of higher speeds, and incorporating a night flying facility, the new helicopter is capable of operating safely in darkness.

In order to maximise the advantages of the new helicopter, it is planned to extend operating hours in 2019 so that anybody in need of urgent medical help can be reached 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

Stationed at RAF Waddington, maximum flying time to any point in the two counties is reduced to 20 minutes a huge benefit for all those in need of critical medical assistance.

Expansion of the Air Ambulance Service comes at a considerable extra cost, all of which has to be raised by the Service. As a Charity, it receives no direct Government funding, and is therefore reliant on bequests, donations and numerous other fund raising events. [fundraising@ambucopter.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@ambucopter.org.uk)

We are delighted to have been able to present Lincs & Notts Air Ambulance with a cheque for £1120 and in doing so wish to thank all those who so generously supported our event and so made the donation possible.

## **NEWS FROM PHOENIX**

Phoenix continues to thrive with up to 14 tables a session, Chris Frost reports. A significant event was the retirement of Brian Pilbin after an astonishing fifty years as a Director. The Club wish to thank him for his many years of service and hope, now he has retired, he can enjoy his Bridge without any distractions. In November a charity event was held to support Children in Need which raised £349. At the half way point in the teams of eight matches, after a mixed start, Phoenix stands poised for a dramatic second half upsurge.

# ♠ TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

## NCBA Masterclasses

**24<sup>th</sup> January How to be a First Team Player John Auld**

**13<sup>th</sup> February “Defence to Multi Two Diamond” Graham Brindley**

EBED, the educational arm of EBU, runs training courses for would be Directors throughout the country, and I recently attended one over four weekends at Nottingham Bridge Club. The reason was twofold, firstly I was very conscious that existing directors at Nottingham Bridge Club, where I play most regularly, were, how I can I put it diplomatically?, not getting any younger, and secondly I found some decisions which I had experienced over the years, difficult to understand, because I simply did not know the rules in any detail.

The course was led by Barrie Partridge from Sheffield B.C. whose encyclopaedic knowledge and experience was immediately apparent. Very informative booklets were produced at each session and Barrie gently guided us all through the complexities of the Law Book, the Blue Book and various simulations which were an invaluable learning tool, if slightly scary. It's only when you're at a table trying to sort out what to do when one player has played revoked, another has played out of turn, and a third has somehow lost a card, that you realize how difficult a Director's job can be.

Crunch time was Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December when the Assessment was due to take place. Mel Shepherd from N.B.C., who had kindly acted as host at each session, had arranged mince pies to fortify us through the ordeal, N.B.C. having provided tea, coffee and biscuits at each session, much appreciated by one and all.

And so we ploughed our way through simulations on Insufficient bids, Calls out of turn, Revocations and much more besides. In between Rob Foster, also from Sheffield B.C. grilled us on Leads out of turn, and with Barrie marked a quiz testing us on the Laws.

By half past four I was even more brain dead than usual. Our Inquisitors relaxed their ruthless probing and told us we had done very well. Really? It didn't quite feel that way at the time. They explained that the aim of the Assessment session was primarily to ensure that everyone was up to an acceptable standard, and that trainees would only be failed in exceptional circumstances, which was reassuring. Our performance at the previous sessions indicated this was unlikely to happen today.

Fellow sufferers included Lloyd Eagling from Mansfield Mechanics BC., Richard Page from Woodborough B.C. and Len Jackson from East Bridgford B.C. and other players from as far afield as Grimsby.

Thanks are due to Barrie Partridge for gently but firmly leading us through the four sessions, to Rob Foster for all his work on Assessment day, to Nottingham B.C. for hosting the sessions, and paying my course fee, thank you!, and to Mel Shepherd for being there at each session to make sure that we were physically comfortable, even if mentally exhausted.

EBED will be running similar courses throughout 2019 at various venues, so if you are interested visit their website. The more Directors there are at all clubs, the less onerous it becomes for any one Director. It's the cheapest and most effective way to ensure that your Club can keep going. As one of my Partners somewhat tactlessly observed to me, 'Well if you can do it, I guess anyone can.' Exactly. So why not get involved and contact EBED now? Paul Sweet



## Fast Track Bridge

An accelerated learning course on how to play bridge.

Venue:- Radcliffe Methodist Church, Shelford Road, Radcliffe on Trent,  
NG12 2AG

| Lesson | Date                           | Time           | Subject                                        |
|--------|--------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 1      | 26 <sup>th</sup> February 2019 | 10:00 to 12:00 | Getting Started at Bridge, Sources of Tricks   |
| 2      | 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2019     | 10:00 to 12:00 | Introducing Trumps, Defence with Trumps        |
| 3      | 12 <sup>th</sup> March 2019    | 10:00 to 12:00 | Introducing Bidding, The 1NT Opening           |
| 4      | 19 <sup>th</sup> March 2019    | 10:00 to 12:00 | Opening Bids in a Suit, More Sources of Tricks |
| 5      | 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2019    | 10:00 to 12:00 | Responding Without a Fit                       |
| 6      | 2nd April 2019                 | 10:00 to 12:00 | The Auction Continues                          |
| 7      | 9 <sup>th</sup> April 2019     | 10:00 to 12:00 | Opener Rebids No Trumps                        |
| 8      | 16 <sup>th</sup> April 2019    | 10:00 to 12:00 | Competitive Bidding                            |
| 9      | 23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2019    | 10:00 to 12:00 | Defence                                        |

|    |                             |                |                                          |
|----|-----------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------------|
| 10 | 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2019 | 10:00 to 12:00 | Doubling                                 |
| 11 | 7 <sup>th</sup> May 2019    | 10:00 to 12:00 | Competing and Sacrificing, Vulnerability |
| 12 | 14 <sup>th</sup> May 2019   | 10:00 to 12:00 | Signposts to the Future                  |

Total cost £85 including refreshments, course book and convention card. First come first served. Only 16 places are available. Couples may share a course book and pay £148. Email [southnottsbridge@gmail.com](mailto:southnottsbridge@gmail.com) with your interest.

South Nottinghamshire Bridge Clubs

## ♠ NCBA: YOUR COUNTY ASSOCIATION

Our two Constitutional Objectives are 'Promoting Bridge in Nottinghamshire' and organizing County events and Leagues'. To achieve this we have 5 headings:

1. Advertising, and Publicity,
2. Effective Communications,
3. Training and Development,
4. NCBA organisation,
5. Events and County competition

### **2018/9 NCBA Committee members and Officers (and their home club)**

SOME CLUBS ARE NOT REPRESENTED- PLEASE COME AND JOIN US!!

**President Ankush (Nottingham)**

**Chair Toni Smith (Woodborough East Bridgford, Nottingham)**

**Secretary Clare Batten (Nottingham)**

**Treasurer Ian Dovey (West Bridgford)**

**County TD Keith Spencer (Woodborough Nottingham)**

**To4 convener Keith Spencer (Woodborough Nottingham)**

**To8 convener Jane Hall (Woodborough)**

**County Captain Mark Goddard (Nottingham)**

**Communications and Promotions Paul Sweet (Nottingham)**

**Website Keith Spencer (Woodborough)**

**Events Manager Graham Brindley (Nottingham)**

**Trophies Sue Wright (Mansfield)**

**Youth Officer Paul Sweet (Nottingham & Woodborough)**

**County Teams Organiser Shirley Ashtari (West Bridgford)**

Any comments on this newsletter or related issues are welcome. Please contact Editor or Secretary Clare ([cpbatten@yahoo.com](mailto:cpbatten@yahoo.com)) or any NCBA Committee member.

Any articles or bridge information for inclusion in future Issues happily received.

