



A Newsletter from
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

The first rainy day of the summer is the perfect excuse to bring the Northants bridge community up to date with county matters.

Remember that as a member of an affiliated club, you are eligible to play for Northants county teams and in county competitions. We very much hope that you get involved.

Our **Annual General Meeting** took place on Wednesday 16th April. The meeting was held via Zoom. The minutes may be viewed on the county website. Click [here](#) to read them.

Northants fields 3 teams, each of 4 pairs, in matches against other counties in the **Eastern Counties League (ECL)**. These matches are played on the RealBridge platform on Sunday afternoons. It's a great opportunity to play friendly but competitive bridge.

County selector, Trevor Thrower is keen to hear from partnerships that would like to put their names forward for selection. The new season began with a match against Bedfordshire on the 27th April and continued against Essex on July 13th. You can email Trevor to express an interest at trevor.j.thrower@gmail.com

Click [here](#) to see the full calendar of county events and matches.

22 pairs competed in our **Green pointed Swiss Pairs** on the 17th May.

As last year, this was an excellent event superbly directed by Nicky Bainbridge with her husband Jim as scorer. Thanks to Northampton BC for hosting and, in particular, to Ross Stacey for leading the organisation. Also, as last year, the event was won by Kettering pair Rob Miller and Dan Baines. Full results may be viewed [here](#).

We will again run a **county wide simultaneous pairs** on Monday 8th September. The same boards will be played at sessions across the county on that day and the results from each will be uploaded to ECATS who will then produce a ranking of all the pairs who competed. Star player, Rob Miller, has agreed to write a commentary on the boards so you can compare what happened at your table with Rob's expert view. There will be a surcharge applied to your usual table fee to cover the ECATS fee and to contribute to our chosen charity – Northants Air Ambulance. To date the following clubs have agreed to run a simultaneous session: Heart of England, Kettering, Northampton, Orton, Oundle, Spalding, Stamford and Wellingborough.

Inter club leagues for teams of four have now been completed. You can see the final league tables [here](#). Congratulations to Kettering A, Bourne A and Stamford D winners of divisions 1,2 and 3 respectively. We are indebted to Gary Upton, chair of Kettering BC, for his organisation of these leagues. Gary plans to start new leagues in September so get your team together ready to enter through your club.

Having won the Lakeland, Stamford represented us in the Garden Cities Regional Final. Unfortunately they did not make it through to the national final. You can see the results [here](#).

The Broke Cup winners represented us in the Pachabo Cup and finished 23rd of 25 teams. Results are [here](#)

Two pairs travelled to Stone in Staffordshire having qualified, via the Eden Cup, to represent us in the Corwen Trophy. Full results are [here](#).

Two pairs qualified to play online in the nine high Corwen, a new competition this year. Results are [here](#). Well done Nicky and Jim Bainbridge on their 4th place finish.

Keep up to date with the county news by visiting our **website**. You will find us [here](#)

The EBU have appointed Mary Cousins in a new role: County and Membership Development Officer. Mary has been in touch and is keen to promote recruitment of new members to our clubs. Northants will be part of a pilot scheme to advertise forthcoming teaching sessions, open days and any other events clubs may hold to attract new members. Simply send me the details of any events you want her to include and I will collate and forward them.

We'd love to hear from you if you have any questions, thoughts or a good bridge story to share. Meanwhile, enjoy the sunshine (the rain has stopped) and may any slams you punt roll in.

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