

## Lincolnshire Premier League

### In a nutshell what is the Lincolnshire Premier League?

*It's the Lincolnshire's "County Night": 8 fixtures spread throughout the year. The premier intra-county pairs league for Lincolnshire's top and up-and-coming players, 6-12 tables, teams scoring (to increase skill and experience for teams events), held in the daytime on selected Sundays, with free tea/coffee & biscuits for £5 table money with ranking lists and prizes each fixture and for the overall winners.*

There is a list of questions and accompanying answers below in an FAQ, including "Why did we do it?"

### Details

**Field:** the top 80 players or so throughout the county, as considered by the [LCBA Selection Committee](#) (if you feel someone should be invited let one of them know).

**Tables:** 6-12 estimated-desired

**Competition:** Pairs league, based on Teams scoring (IMPs)

**Cost:** £5 table money - tea/coffee & biscuits included (self-service)

#### Prizes:

**Fixture Winners:** get their next Fixture free

**League Winners** (total of top 4 scores IMPs across all fixtures) : get £20 each.

**Venue:** Dunholme Village Hall

**TDs:** Directors are drawn from those scheduled playing

**Finances:** Premier League to be self-sustaining financially including prizes

**History:** based on the concepts of Nick Hunter's Champion's League and the EBU Premier League

**Fixture List:** at a glance (also for those with digital calendars : [web](#) , [ical](#))

Lincolnshire Premier League 2020 : list of invited players -

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/105FwVutdLm-nRRQXoYsSwxTZWyptrVVrGkhSxLoY9B8/edit#gid=0>

### FAQ - Frequently Asked Questions

#### Why did we do it?

As Lincolnshire has got back, after several years absence, to playing inter-county bridge it has been clear from 2019 results that our county players, old and new, are missing the practice of playing - and succeeding - against the best bridge players in England. The Premier League is thus a step in that direction and is a platform, also, for players who have not yet represented the county, but would be interested in doing so, but don't want to be thrown in the deep end!

For players who are not so happy to play high intensity, competitive bridge the county already offers a tremendous range of plentiful bridge events throughout the season from October to June.

#### What is the scoring? And NGS graded?

The scoring will be Teams based, rather than Pairs based. This is purposefully to increase exposure to and practice teams scoring found in most of our inter-county events the county sends

representative teams to. Yes, all the fixtures are NGS graded.

### **Do invited players get partners chosen for them?**

No not at all, invited players choose their own partner, if they are on the Invitation List. If an invited player's regular partners are all unavailable on the day they want to play, then they are free to contact anyone on the selected list or to ask one of the Organisers or Selectors to suggest a suitable partner if possible.

### **Why Invitation only?**

In order for the standard of bridge to be the most competitive it can be in Lincolnshire, from the start, the Lincolnshire Premier League is invitation only to players identified by the [LCBA Selection Committee](#).

### **Where can I see the current list of invited players?**

This online spreadsheet [Lincolnshire Premier League 2020 : list of invited players](#) contains a current copy of all invited player names (full link below).

### **How do players get invited?**

The initial invitation list was constructed democratically by the [LCBA Selection Committee](#) who each gave their personal opinion on suitability for the first 150 Lincolnshire players by [NGS ranking](#) between 4-26 Nov 2019. Around 80 players were selected. It is not necessary for invited players to have Lincolnshire as their primary county - we, based on the Selectors views, may extend invitations out to strong players from other CBAs (counties).

### **How do players get selected?**

Each Selector will know many players in the county, but not all. A player is selected if there is at least a 2 majority from the 6 selectors. If a Selector does not know a player or does not have a view, they must abstain. It is entirely possible and desired that there are some players with a low NGS who are selected (for the right reasons) and some with a higher NGS that are not. The full list the Selectors have to work with, now includes most active players in the county.

### **What criteria do selectors use?**

Usually by results. Good showings in county events. Good showings at congresses and other county events. This is reflected in high NGS. But it's perfectly possible that players who either have a low NGS or have an NGS that is not published, are selected due to personal knowledge by Selectors of their potential and/or performance in bridge events.

### **Was there a quota of invited players?**

No, quotas were never considered. It is simply the collection of all those who were voted in by a majority of 2.

### **Can players be invited later on?**

Yes, they can. The county committee is mindful that NGS changes, new players come in or existing players improve or become very motivated. As part of the initial selection, we had 3 extra players added recently, not in the top ranking by NGS, but nevertheless, identified by Selectors who noted that they weren't on the original top 150 list.

### **How can a player get themselves or another player invited?**

Best way is to ask one of the [LCBA Selection Committee](#) who can help you. They can canvas the

rest of the Selection Committee. The whole process can take less than a day, but be mindful it requires 7-8 people to do some work.

**Can an invited player, play in the Premier League with a non-invited player?**

Unfortunately not. There are no playing guests, unless they themselves are Invited. The Premier League is very much intended as a competitive series much like "1st team training" at a rugby club. As such it the Premier League is intended as (hopefully very enjoyable!) training and experience that benefits the Lincolnshire Squad as a whole.

**Despite your best efforts, I have a question that is not listed here, who do I ask?**

If you have a question not answered please contact one of the organisers: Kiat Huang or Nick Hunter. Glynn Elwick or any of the Selection Committee should be able to help.