



A Newsletter from
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

The NCBA committee wishes you all a happy new year and we send our best wishes for 2026.

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.

You are also eligible to stand to become a member of the county committee. The need for new blood is becoming more acute as long serving members seek to decrease their commitment. If you value the work of the county association and can spare a little time in support of it, I would love to hear from you.

We were joined in September's meeting by the EBU's County and Membership Development Officer, Mary Cousins. In this new role, Mary has been busy helping clubs and counties to attract new members. EBU data shows that clubs who teach recruit more new members than clubs that don't and so she encouraged NCBA to do what we could to promote teaching in our affiliated clubs. I wrote to club chairs in November listing the suggestions below.

- Sponsor courses for those members wishing to train as bridge teachers
- Help clubs co-ordinate and possibly combine classes
- Help with additional costs associated with provision of classes e.g. hire of a venue
- Run online get togethers for teachers in the county
- Advertise lessons through group emails and via the county website

We were pleased to award a grant to Kettering BC towards the cost of new IT dedicated to teaching. Chairman Gary Upton is happy to show off the new set up should anyone get in touch.

Nicky Bainbridge is setting up an online forum for teachers to discuss methods, materials, marketing and resources. Interested? Email nickyrbainbridge@gmail.com.

If you have thought about becoming a bridge teacher, now is a good time to get started. Get in touch!

The next two county events are both on Sunday 15th February. The Lakeland Trophy, an inter club teams of eight competition, will take place at Stamford BC whilst Kettering BC will host the Kettering Trophy. Both start at 13:00. The winners of the Lakeland will represent our county in the EBU's Garden Cities trophy.

The Kettering Trophy is for teams of four and is restricted to partnerships with NGS average 9 or less. It's a friendly event and a great opportunity to play against teams from across the county. There's still time to enter a team. Just send the team members' names and EBU numbers to northantsbridge.comps@gmail.com. It costs just £20 per team.

The interclub leagues are in full swing. You can view the latest tables [here](#). Stamford C are off to a flier in Div 2.

The ECL season is approaching its climax. You can see the latest positions [here](#).

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

The EBU are keen to learn more about their membership and to this end they have asked members to complete a short survey. Click [here](#) if you'd like to complete it.

We'd love to hear from you if you have any questions, thoughts or a good bridge story to share. Meanwhile, keep warm and remember the words of Somerset Maugham:

"Bridge is the most diverting and intelligent card game that the wit of man has so far devised...when all else fails - sport, love, ambition - bridge remains a solace and an entertainment."

Bill Chadwick
NCBA chair
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