



A Newsletter from
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

Greetings from NCBA. The outside temperature is 32°C so the curtains are drawn and a fan is on maximum. It's a good time to sit and type a few paragraphs to keep you updated and to keep me cool.

At the risk of sounding like a stuck record, I'll start as I did in the last newsletters. I repeat these appeals as the health of NCBA depends upon the participation of members in teams and competitions and on volunteers stepping up to join the committee.

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.

Kettering BC are making good use of their new IT for teaching. They have two members training to become teachers and beginners' lessons begin in September. Contact club chairman Gary Upton (garyupton12@virginmedia.com) for details should you know anyone who wishes to learn the game.

Nicky and Jim Bainbridge are running a new beginners' course at Northampton BC on Thursday evenings from Sept 17th. Any new or prospective teachers are welcome to observe - a chance to see some teaching and learning and get help to start.

Nicky is also keen to run a teacher cluster meeting, so please could anyone who might be interested get in touch. (heartofenglandbridge@gmail.com)

The EBED Generation Game is a casual, monthly online bridge event organized by English Bridge Education & Development (EBED) that allows family members and friends of different ages to play together in an informal setting. The games are played on RealBridge and generally start at 6:30 PM on scheduled Sundays, lasting about one hour. Click [here](#) to discover more. A great way to involve children or grandchildren.

There's a Junior Bridge Camp run by EBED from Fri 28th to Sun 30th Aug at King's Park Centre in Northampton. You can see details on the NCBA website. Note that there is a day rate should overnight accommodation not be needed.

I like this latest advert from the EBU. Note the 'Share Me' logo. All of you reading this newsletter are already aware of these benefits – the EBU asks us to share with those who may not be. Please do.

6 Benefits of Playing Duplicate Bridge
More than a card game. A lifetime of rewards.

1 Enhances Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving Skills
Every hand is a puzzle that sharpens your ability to analyze, plan, and make the best decisions.

2 Improves Memory and Concentration
Remembering bids, tracking cards, and focusing throughout play keep your mind sharp and engaged.

3 Provides Fair and Skill-Based Competition
Everyone plays the same hands, so success comes from skill, judgment, and teamwork—not just luck.

4 Encourages Lifelong Learning
There's always something new to discover. Bridge offers endless opportunities to grow and improve.

5 Builds Meaningful Social Connections
Bridge brings people together. It's a game of partnership, friendship, and a welcoming community.

6 Supports Healthy Aging and Mental Fitness
Mentally stimulating and socially engaging, bridge helps keep your mind active and healthy for life.

Challenge your mind. Connect with others. Enjoy bridge for life.

A lot has happened since I last wrote.

Five teams of eight competed in the Lakeland Trophy at Stamford BC in February. It was great to see Bourne BC make their first appearance in this competition. The winners were the Stamford B team who went on to represent Northants in the Garden Cities Regional Final. Results of which may be seen [here](#).

On the same day eight teams of four did battle in the Kettering Trophy which was won by the Towcester team of Derek Wright, Jean Raven, Lynne and Chris Button.

The Eden Cup, played at Kettering BC, was won by Maggie Jones and Dan Baines who became the county pairs champions. The Eden is the qualifier for the Corwen and 9 high Corwen. Unfortunately, Dan and Maggie couldn't play the Corwen which this year was played face to face at Telford. Three other pairs did and you can see how they got on [here](#). Well done to our highest finishers, Jane Reeve and Mark Hodgson.

We had just one pair in the 9 high Corwen – David Ogg and Stuart Sharp – who finished 15th out of 55 pairs competing. Well done to them.

The One Day Swiss teams at Northampton BC was full to capacity. Mark Hodgson and Paul Collins enjoyed a remarkable day finishing so far ahead of the field that they needn't have bothered playing the last round. Full results can be seen [here](#).

The three divisions of the interclub leagues were keenly contested. Congratulations to Bourne A, Towcester and Stamford F winners of Division 1, 2 and 3 respectively. Winning division 1 was another first for Bourne BC.

The county's team of four knock out for the Broke Cup was won by team Chadwick (Bill, Don McFarlane, Trevor Thrower, Tim Durdin) who went on to represent Northants in the Pachabo Cup finishing 8th out of the 27 teams. Full results are [here](#). The plate competition, the Betts Bowl, was won by team Miller (Rob, Ufuk Cotuk, Chris Wormleighton and Dan Baines).

The ECL season began in June with match v Essex. It was a mixed start for new selector and team captain, Rob Miller, with the A team losing but the B and C teams recording resounding wins. Next match is v Cambs and Hunts on July 26th. Let Rob know (robmbridge@aol.com) if you'd like to be considered for selection.

Next up is the County Simultaneous Pairs on Monday 14th September. There are sessions confirmed at Kettering, Northampton, Stamford, Wellingborough, Oundle and Orton. We hope to raise a substantial sum for our local Air Ambulance.

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

I'll finish with this from the great Omar Sharif. He clearly agrees with Benefit 6 above!

"Many games provide fun, but Bridge grips you. It exercises your mind. Your mind can rust, you know, but Bridge prevents the rust from forming."

Bill Chadwick
NCBA chair
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