



A Newsletter from
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

Happy Easter to you from the NCBA committee.

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 in 2024.

Our **Annual General Meeting** is on Wednesday 17th April starting at 6pm. The meeting is held via Zoom. Should you wish to join, please email the county secretary, Tim Durdin (timdurdin@yahoo.co.uk), to receive a link and an agenda. Include in your email any resolution for debate or, if you wish to be elected to the committee as an officer or as an ordinary member, include a paragraph about yourself and why you would like to join the committee. As Tim wishes to stand down, applications to be the county secretary would be particularly welcome.

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 begins with a match against Hertfordshire on the 28th April. 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.

Green pointed Swiss Pairs at Northampton BC
Saturday 18th May starting at 13:00

We welcome entries for this one day event. Details and online entry form may be found [here](#). Join us for what should be an enjoyable day's bridge in excellent playing conditions. We have kept the entry fee as low as we can. £35 per pair is, I think, excellent value.

Bridge – it's a big deal.

The EBU's festival of bridge – a week of events from the 9th to the 15th of September to raise awareness of this great game. They have partnered with Cancer Research and aim to raise £60,000.

As part of the festival we intend to run a **county wide simultaneous pairs** on Monday 9th September. We hope that all our affiliated clubs will join in. The same boards will be played at a session on that day and the results from each club will be uploaded to ECATS who will then produce a ranking of pairs across the county. 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 Cancer Research.

Inter club leagues for teams of four are reaching a conclusion. You can see the latest league tables [here](#). Kettering are well placed in Div 1 and Towcester in Div 2. Stamford managed to field 6 teams. David Ogg, bravely put his name forward and found himself in the Stamford F team. His account of his experience to date is included at the end of this newsletter. His message is clear – get involved, it's good fun.

Congratulations to Malcolm Orr-Ewing and John Blakesley of Northampton BC who won the Eden Cup and to Kettering BC's team (Rob Miller, Dan Baines, Mark Hodgson, Chris Wormleighton, Graham Dolby, Simon Few, Mark Hodgson, John Walshaw) who won the Lakeland Trophy.

Calling All Teachers

Have you put your name and details on the EBU teacher directory?

Any EBU member can add their name from their MyEBU account.

You will then be visible to potential learners searching the EBU and the EBU will forward queries for lessons that they receive to you (by geography).

Check out the directory [here](#)

You do not have to be a member of EBED TA to add your name.

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

We'd love to hear from you if you have any questions, thoughts or a good bridge story to share. Meanwhile have a great Easter and may your sacrifices never be phantoms.

Bill Chadwick

NCBA chair

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David Ogg writes:

I am a fairly new member of our (brilliant) Stamford Bridge Club having completed Sue Moss's excellent beginners' course in early 2022. Since then I have played at the Club in a number of different sessions on different days and wondered what it might be like to compete against others, elsewhere. An email from Marcus (Witt) asking for teams to compete in the County League encouraged me to ask 4 SBC friends to come together and

form a team to give it a go. We didn't really have a clue about what we might be letting ourselves in for - foolhardy, some might say!

Our application was accepted and we are designated 'Stamford F' in Division 2 of the Northamptonshire League. We are by far the lowest ranked Stamford team (by NGS - ours at the moment being 4, 10, 7, 7, 8). Our first couple of matches were against other Stamford Teams (C & D) and we were predictably hammered - but very nicely, and in excellent company! These matches were face to face and were very enjoyable. Each match included some small successes giving us encouragement - we even 'won' the second half of one, with a single card played making all the difference. We then faced the challenge of a match on BBO (I am a member of the post-Covid bridge cadre, so getting sorted on BBO was challenging.) Anyway, all went well - we were beating Towcester BC at halfway, but collapsed in the final 12 boards to lose out overall. We tried our best, and the margin of defeat was reducing with every game played.

Most recently we played Bourne B - again on BBO. It started well for us, and we were winning after 12 (of 24) boards. After some pretty poor bridge by me in the second half, things got much closer, but we still ended up winning - I think - the score is yet to be confirmed with our opposition. Once again the event was played in very good spirit and was most enjoyable. One of our team even played this in match while on holiday overseas - total dedication!

We now have two matches to play before the end of the League season (dates are in the diary....) and with a win under our belt we go again with renewed optimism. It really is great fun and I can thoroughly recommend the experience. Everyone we have played against has been very kind to us as 'team bridge newbies' and there are so many experienced players to ask about procedures and the like. Please do think about entering this very friendly league next season - it's a great experience. Thanks to my teammates Gaynor, Stuart, Stephen and Steve. Two matches to go - with a fair wind we could finish with 3 wins from 6 - but I suspect that Stamford E and Northampton C will have something to say about that.....

(I love that they 'got hammered' but 'very nicely'!)