



Newsletter 1 January 2020

**Don't the days just seem to accelerate at break-neck speed as Christmas approaches - always so much to do, people to see and places to go! Never enough time to get things done- then suddenly here we are, January 1<sup>st</sup> and its all over for another year ☹**

**Before Christmas I asked a group of my beginners what they were doing on New Years Eve- they said various things but they all said they'd rather be having their bridge lessons. How sweet to see such innocent addiction after 5 lessons!! That naïve enjoyment is a joy to behold and it's such a privilege to be able to introduce new people to our marvelous game. There are some great examples of bridge lessons and innovations across Nottinghamshire- I hope your club is getting involved in some of these and bringing on new players. The investment now will reap rewards in years to come.**

**But importantly we all have a part to play in keeping our sport alive through nurturing new players and being patient and understanding as people less experienced as ourselves develop. That applies at all levels as there is ALWAYS someone better -and worse -than ourselves. It's a fine balance in a competitive sport like bridge to create a non-gloating supportive environment but it's that which encourages our colleagues and furthers everyone's enjoyment. Just a thought for our New Year's Resolutions!**

**Seasons Greetings and Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year from the NCBA committee.**



Editor

Have fun with Bridge in 2020/1

## **NCBA Chair's 2019 Report**

My main reflection on the year past is how successful (or otherwise !) we have been in trying to support Bridge in Nottinghamshire to be more inclusive and

progressive. Committee members have worked hard and NCBA thanks all present and past members for all their contributions; after all committee members are simply volunteers trying to do their best for our collective enjoyment.

Improvements have been made, for example in restructuring the Committee into sub-committees so that work can move at a faster pace than is possible through the smaller number of full committee meetings that are held yearly. Its hard work getting dates suitable for all 12 members!

The first experiment with a subcommittee was on the County League and has proved successful, devising a comprehensive transparent new procedure around selection and is reaping improved performance this year. You can read all about Nottinghamshire's County League successes on the NCBA website and also some interesting post match debriefs by experienced players which are very educational for all. Development has been a feature with post home-match debriefs and practice sessions and friendly County forays against Derbyshire. All this takes effort to organize and thanks goes to those people who voluntarily carry out this work.

On the down side, falling numbers remain a perennial problem in drives and at the last committee meeting we agreed to temporarily dispense with the monthly NCBA drives in the current format. This is because we do not get sufficient numbers to keep the Wednesday night going and now cancellations will be charged for it is no longer financially viable to hold a gatekeeping system with a last minute cancellation. Instead we will be holding one-off exciting events such as SIMS, or Blue Point events. These will be mainly on Wednesdays but advertised fully in advance so keep an eye on the NCBA calendar website and your emails. These have proven popular in the past few years so we hope you will like the new format, which will provide a programme of novel interesting events for all levels. Any specific ideas of things you'd like to see us put on are welcomed from all players. And a new sub committee on County Events is being formed to take this forward. If you are interested in joining one of these sub-committees please come forward, we always welcome new members with constructive ideas. We are here to support Bridge and look forward to meeting you at these events.

At this time of year, NCBA would like to thank all the NCBA players in the county for keeping the game alive. Enjoy your game and share the fun.

Happy New Year

Toni Smith  
Chair

## IMPORTANT NOTE FOR ALL CLUB SECRETARIES

**Don't forget that this Newsletter is issued to all clubs and players in Nottinghamshire that we are aware of so is an ideal way to advertise your forthcoming event whether that is a training, social or competitive bridge event.**

Keep up to date with what is going on by regularly checking the **NCBA website calendar**, which lists all the various competitions and events. Items in this Newsletter are just a snapshot.

click on link below for various events. [http://www.bridgewebs.com/cgi-bin/bwoj/bw.cgi?club=nottinghamshire&pid=display\\_page85&sessid=52761165593049](http://www.bridgewebs.com/cgi-bin/bwoj/bw.cgi?club=nottinghamshire&pid=display_page85&sessid=52761165593049)

**NB: You do not need to be an affiliated club/member to have your news item included**

## LOCAL NEWS X 3

### WAY TO GO WOODBOROUGH!!

Nothing better than a bridge drive on a wet Wednesday afternoon in November, especially if it raises funds for a local charity: and so it was that Woodborough bridge club organised their annual fund raiser for Headway, a charity providing rehabilitation and support for anyone unfortunate enough to have suffered a serious brain injury.

72 players from local clubs supported the event .Tea, cakes and cucumber sandwiches went down a storm. Raffle tickets were generously purchased to win the prizes again all donated by our supporters. At the end of the afternoon we were delighted to be able to announce that the fabulous sum of £1170 had been raised and will be presented to the local branch of Headway



A Full House at the excellent Woodborough venue.

## **NEWARK CAFÉ BRIDGE**

### **15 October 2019**

Once again we were favoured by the weather gods, having one of the few dry days in October for our 2019 Cafe Bridge event in Newark.

78 dedicated bridge players came to The Ram for half past nine to register, enjoy a coffee, meet up with friends and fellow bridge players, before receiving their final instructions for the day. Everyone then dispersed to one of 5 different cafe venues to play the first 6 boards of bridge, before moving on through the day to all the other venues, playing a further 6 boards at each as well as having lunch at one of the venues. Fortunately no one went missing and everyone returned to The Ram, to relax, enjoy a well earned glass of wine or juice, before the drawing of the raffle and presentation of prizes.

After a closely fought competition, the winners were Shirley Ashtari and Dick Milne scoring 61.57%, closely followed by Mike Nailard and Mervyn Jones with 60.32%. As the day is primarily designed to provide a friendly game of bridge between friends, prizes were also awarded to those scoring nearest to 50%, these were won by Lynne Marlow and Ruth Milliken and by Marion Donaldson and Sue Hollins.

As well as people having a thoroughly enjoyable time, the event looks to raise money for a very worthwhile local charity, with £1450 being raised for this year's charity – Lincs and Notts Air Ambulance – who are celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary; a very satisfactory result thanks to the generosity of all concerned.

A big vote of thanks is also due to the 5 venues who hosted the event, Carriages, Castle Barge, Gannets, Harbour Master, and especially The Ram who provided a base for the whole day.

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### **ADVANCE NOTICE**

#### **SOUTH NOTTS BRIDGE CLUBS**

**KEYWORTH - RUDDINGTON PHOENIX - EAST BRIDGFORD - WEST BRIDGFORD**

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN TO PLAY BRIDGE? ♥♠♣♦♠♣**

**We are running our 5th Fast Track Bridge Beginners Course commencing weekly [from Thursday 5th March 2020](#) at Keyworth Village Hall [10.00 am - 12.00](#) midday**

**Telephone: Ann Adkin [0115 937 2453](tel:01159372453) for more details  
Email: Mervyn Jones on [jonesmervynb@gmail.com](mailto:jonesmervynb@gmail.com)  
[www.southnottsbridge.org](http://www.southnottsbridge.org)**

# **NCBA: YOUR COUNTY ASSOCIATION**

**Remember- NCBA is your County Association. We exist solely to support Bridge in Nottinghamshire. And if you don't tell us what you need, we can't help!! We are up for CHANGE. Please communicate with us.**

In previous Issues we explained our agreed Strategy for promoting Bridge in Nottinghamshire under these main headings:

1. Advertising, and Publicity
2. Effective Communications
3. Training and Development
4. Internal review of how NCBA works
5. Events and County competitions

## Brief update:

1. We plan to hold a series of masterclasses again in 2020- these are open to everyone. Any requests for topics, please let us know.
2. **There has been interest in NCBA organising EBU to hold more TD training sessions in Nottingham. Its helpful to have these sessions local but we need about 5-6 people definitely interested before EBU will agree to hold one here. We need just a few more takers- please let us know asap if you are interested.**
3. Don't forget Graham Brindley's 'Bridge for Improvers' Thursdays 7pm NBC- look at the NCBA website for details and also the Wednesday 2pm afternoon drive where you don't need a partner and can benefit from Graham's considerable experience and support. The joint NCBA/NBC monthly Thursday lunch and Bridge continues in 2020- sign up on the notice in the NBC.
4. **The 2020 Clubs Conference is provisionally scheduled for 6 March 2020 . We need each club to confirm attendance by 31 January to secure the booking. So far we have requests for topics on Behaviour, TD support, Beginners courses, increasing numbers and development. Any more topics welcomed.**
5. The new sub committee on County organised events (not limited to County league players of course!!) comprises Sue Wright Keith Spencer Mark Goddard Shirley Ashtari led by Graham Brindley until he retires after the AGM. The County League sub committee was Mark Goddard, Pravin Tailor, Clare Batten, Toni Smith and Sue McIntosh, and now after the procedures have been ratified buy full committee , it carries on delivering the Nottinghamshire League events, comprising Mark, Pravin and Sue

## **NCBA Winter Teams of Eight League – 2019/20 update from organiser** **Jane Hall**

*The season has started well with 21 teams, and a number of new captains. As always fixture setting can be a difficult task but full marks to Division 2 captains who have all their fixtures for the season agreed. The outstanding matches in the other two divisions are those in the second half and do not need to be agreed until the end of December. The names of nominated players have to be submitted by the end of December, although some teams have already submitted. One match was amicably rearranged. Results are coming in to me quickly, and the NCBA website updated within a few days. Full results will be input into the EBU score system in due course."*

(Smoothly organized Jane as always - well done! Ed)

### **NCBA Competitions**

NCBA hosts various competitions- have a look at the website. If you are not sure if the event is 'for you' have a word with our Events Manager Graham Brindley by email at [graham@brindley57.plus.com](mailto:graham@brindley57.plus.com) or by phone on 0115 9232186 . Graham will be only too pleased to explain what any event entails. We need more players entering these comps. They are NOT solely for the most experienced players- we offer something for everyone!!

1. SIMS event on 15th January 7pm at NBC hosted by Mark Goddard. Please enter early.
2. The Knock Out teams qualifier on 26th January also at the NB and
3. After 2019's successful Blue Point events, which attracted players from outside Nottinghamshire, we have the first of the 2020 Blue Point ( as opposed to the normal black 'master' points) Swiss pairs on 27th February. We have agreed to hold one day time weekday event and one weekend event annually to cater for workers and those who cant make weekends.
4. **Other events:** Heads up for: Journal Cup is on 8 March, Leicester Green point event is on 7 March, Retford Swiss teams is on 2pm 26 April at Blyth Memorial Hall as is Derbyshire mixed pairs at Spondon.

Celebrations Celebrations Celebrations Celebrations



Jane Hall  
and  
Richard  
Page  
winners  
NCBA  
Mixed Pairs

**2020/21 NCBA Committee members and Officers (and their home club)**

**WE STILL HAVE VACANCIES AND ARE WILLING TO CO OPT PEOPLE ON. COME AND JOIN US!!**

- Chair & Editor Toni Smith (Woodborough Nottingham)**
- Treasurer Ian Dovey (West Bridgford)**
- County TD and Webmaster Keith Spencer (Woodborough)**
- To4 convenor Keith Spencer (Woodborough)**
- To8 convenor Jane Hall (East Bridgford)**
- County League sub committee and team captains Mark Goddard (Nottingham) Sue McIntosh (Retford) Pravin Tailor (Nottingham and Woodborough)**
- County Events Sub committee with Events Manager Graham Brindley (Nottingham): Sue Wright (Mansfield) Shirley Ashtari (W Bridgford) and Keith Spencer/Mark Goddard**
- Other committee members: Chris Frost (Phoenix) Maciej Lehman (Nottingham Woodborough)**

Any articles or bridge information for inclusion in future Issues happily received.

♥ Editor: tonitsmith76@gmail.com

**A SUCCESSFUL NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL**

