

The purpose of this note is to explain why the club is assessing whether to offer a competitive session for members with an “NGS of 8 or below”, what that phrase means and how you can find out if you are eligible. The new competitive session will be launched in October, subject to sufficient levels of interest (a minimum of 3 full tables).

The English Bridge Union (EBU) National Grading System (NGS) has been designed to measure a Bridge player’s current performance. The system enables comparisons at a national and county level, helping players to understand their relative performance and creating a grading on that basis. As well as giving a general insight, often competitions (club, county, regional) will stipulate a maximum grade or advise a minimum grade.

The grade is based on the last 2000 boards played in EBU accredited sessions. In ROBC language, an EBU accredited session is a ‘competitive session’. Individual grades are updated whenever new results are received. Grades are expressed as a percentage and then grouped into 13 playing card bands, ranging from Ace (highest) to Two (entry level).

In order to obtain a grade, a member must have played at least 150 boards in accredited sessions. If you are new to the game or club, and you have not yet played in competitive sessions, you will not yet have a grade. If you have played more than 150 boards in competitive sessions, you can find your grade through the EBU website, and how you do that is explained next.

Most, if not all, ROBC members have an EBU membership number. Hopefully, you have a record of your’s but if not let me know and I will find it. Armed with your EBU number, you need to create an EBU password that allows you to log in.

To create a log in, click here: <https://www.ebu.co.uk/members/v2/index.html>

Once you have logged in, to look at the national table, click here <https://www.ebu.co.uk/ngs> and insert your name (as given to the EBU) in the Player Search facility on the top right. A pop up will show both your percentage and your grade. If this does not work, I can tell you what your grade is if you have one and at a relevant time show those who are interested how to work the system.

A grade has value because it creates some performance context, sets a personal target (if you want one) and gives you mobility - you can then enter competitions in other clubs without difficulty. Not everyone wants any of this, in which case what is being proposed is not for you.

If this is something you are interested in, it can be quite a daunting prospect to have to play against members who are graded as Aces, Kings etc. We would like to address this by offering an EBU accredited session only for those players who are graded 8 and below, thus allowing less experienced players to get their foot on the grading ladder whilst playing with their peer group.

Details of the new session will be circulated in the next few weeks.