

**To all bridge players in Norfolk, Suffolk, Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire**

The EBU has set up a Clubs Committee to act as a channel with its member clubs, giving them an improved means of expressing their views on matters directly affecting clubs and club players. The first meeting of the new EBU Club Committee was held on 17th September. Our committee reports directly to the EBU board of directors and is to be consulted on matters affecting clubs.

I have agreed, as a volunteer, to represent the views of **ALL** bridge players who are members of clubs in Norfolk, Suffolk, Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire. To this end I want to hear from **YOU** with any ideas, suggestions and comments on what you need or want from the EBU and how the EBU can best help your club flourish. We particularly want to hear from those clubs where most members may not play in tournaments either nationally or in their county, and who may feel that the EBU does not do much for them or take their opinions into account.

One of the past criticisms of the EBU has been its apparent concentration on tournament and international players and a perceived neglect of ordinary clubs and their members. The EBU has promised to change this emphasis and there is now **A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO HAVE A REAL SAY IN THE FUTURE OF BRIDGE IN THIS COUNTRY.**

Over the next few months I intend to visit clubs in our region or set up joint meetings. You will decide the agenda, so please let me know what points you want us to take up. Some possibilities for you to think about are:-

- Are the services the EBU offers to clubs the right ones for your club?
- Are the alerting and announcing arrangements right for the average club player?
- What do you like/not like about the magazines *English Bridge and Club Focus*?
- Would your club welcome help with recruiting new members or publicity?
- Do you have functional IT facilities/website/scoring programmes ; would you welcome help in setting these up?

Finally, we all know that the P2P proposals for implementation in 2010 have caused some controversy but it is not necessary to take precipitate action. Next July the EBU will send out a form of contract to all clubs in which will be spelt out clearly the services and benefits provided to clubs in return for committing to Universal Membership and Pay-to-Play. Clubs will then be able to make a fully informed decision as to whether to continue affiliation or not. In the meantime, they may also come to realise that the EBU is fully committed to doing its best for all clubs and grass-root membership.

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Please when replying at any time identify, [a] your club and [b] your county of affiliation