

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

- Pay to Play and Universal Membership has begun smoothly and well. The numbers are encouraging; 602 clubs with 17 returning after initially rejecting affiliation. The membership of the EBU is in excess of 46,000. For most ordinary affiliated club members who were already previously members of the EBU there had been no great noticeable difference other than that they no longer needed to pay an annual membership subscription.
- Overall the membership data and session file submission implementation had gone more smoothly than expected, although there had been some problems for clubs which used scoring programs other than ScoreBridge.
- The Interim National Clubs Committee have recorded its thanks to all the staff at Aylesbury for their hard work during the transition.

Current county lists of affiliation to EBU as of July 2010

County Association	No. of EBU clubs 2009	Positive response to Affiliation	Negative response to Affiliation	Not replied
Cambs & Hunts	16	13	2	1
Lincolnshire	14	10	4	
Norfolk	29	19	9	1
Suffolk	19	15	4	
TOTAL	78	57	19	2

Personal members' area on the EBU web site

I hope you are all keeping up to date with you personal accomplishments on the member login in page which is to be found at the top left hand side of the EBU's web page. Once on this page you can change your password from the original 10 digit code the EBU sent you with your key fob. There are also other options such as selecting your primary club and whether you wish to receive the magazine. More will be added in due course but it's good to see if all your details are correct as well as keeping a check on your masterpoints for each session played.

Masterpoints

- MPs are added to a member's total in the month following the sessions they play in. This is in order to give club scorers time to make any corrections which may become necessary if errors are noticed.
- MPs can be submitted for county events and congresses either the new way via ScoreBridge or in the old way with a spreadsheet. The latter is slow and random, and event organisers are to be encouraged to move to the new way of doing things.
- The EBU's own events are scored using different software and that will be adapted to enable timelier crediting of MPs.
- Michael Clark will produce league management software when he has time. Until then submission of MPs is by using spreadsheets as before.

Ladder points can be submitted using ScoreBridge

Stratification

Ideas on stratification have been progressed and handed to Stephen Bligh to develop a system for ScoreBridge which was being tested with a club. ScoreBridge may be ready for testing with some further clubs by October. To begin with stratification was intended for clubs, and it will be up to the clubs as to how they stratify their events. Initially, it is likely to be done by masterpoint rank, but clubs may choose to adjust that, e.g. if they have very experienced players who have not bothered to register their masterpoints. There were not yet any plans to stratify county events, though that may come later.

Clubs Sim Pairs Week

This will take place in March 2011 and consist of five Sims with different boards on each evening. The event will be stratified.

There will also be an 'International Sim Pairs' in February 2011 as a fundraising event for Internationals. (The EBU budget for Internationals has been substantially reduced and this is a method for the Internationals to raise additional funds.)

The elected National Clubs Committee is being formed in Autumn 2011

This will be democratically elected committee from grass routes level upwards. It is in the final stages of implementation.

- Arrangements for a permanently elected Clubs Committee would take some time as the democratic process of electing a representative of county clubs should take place at each county's AGM. Thus the current InterimCC will remain in place until the permanent CC is ready to take over, probably in the autumn of 2011.
- The CC should be a pro-active forum.
- **Each club should have a club contact i.e. a club liaison officer (who may or may not be the same person as the club secretary). This person should be the point of contact for the county and CC in matters affecting clubs. Please let your county secretary know who this will be.**
- Counties may liaise with clubs about inviting nominations for a county representative for the regional club committee.
- Counties will decide if a vote is necessary.
- The County Club Representative should focus on club rather than county matters.
- If no club volunteer for the position of County Club Representative is forthcoming, then the county would need to appoint a suitable person from its own committee.
- The 39 Counties would be divided into five regions, with a Regional Club Committee for each region meeting twice a year, prior to meetings of the national CC. The RCC would consist of County Club Representatives elected/appointed as described above. Each RCC would elect one of their number to represent the region on the national CC.
- Broadly, the objectives of the CC would be to increase the number of members in affiliated bridge clubs; development of club bridge; ensure that clubs are represented; support network for clubs; sharing of information and best practice; how best to help with bridge education. Terms of reference taking into account the above to be drawn up and approved by the Board.
- Please read the attached document

Suzanne Gill 01692 631456 suegill@btinternet.com

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