



A Newsletter from
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

Happy New Year to all our members and our best wishes for 2025. I hope your resolutions remain unbroken.

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.

We were very saddened to hear of the untimely death of Marcus Witt on Boxing Day. Marcus was a fabulous player who represented the county over many years mainly in partnership with Trevor Thrower. He was widely admired for his sharp mind, his wit his generosity and his kindness. Many of us are greatly indebted to him and will miss him a great deal. We send our condolences to his aunt Jill with whom Marcus lived.

In happier news we were delighted that the EBU 'warmly accepted' NCBA's nomination of Trevor Thrower for a 2024 Dimmie Fleming Award, Congratulations, Trevor. Trevor received his award at the EBU's AGM at the end of November. The intent of the Dimmie Fleming award is to publicly recognise those people who do not hold an official (i.e. EBU) office, but have, for a long time - usually over 15 years – worked hard for bridge in administration at County level. Trevor has served NCBA for over 30 years in a variety of roles. He has been chairman and is currently team selector, director of home matches in the ECL, calendar secretary and EBU shareholder. Trevor is also central to the smooth running of Stamford BC where he is senior director, IT guru, teacher and mentor. He also plays a little bridge and is quite good at it! A richly deserved award for someone generous with his time and who is happy to share his expertise in support of bridge in the county.

Northants fields 3 teams, each of 4 pairs, in matches against other 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. Our next match is against Suffolk on 12th January. 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.

Bridge – it's a big deal.

The EBU's festival of bridge ran from the 9th to the 15th of September last year. Our simultaneous event was well supported and raised £1200 for Cancer Research, the EBU's partner charity. The EBU's report on the successful week can be read [here](#).

Inter club leagues for teams of four began last year and are now in full swing. Bourne A have made a strong start in Div 2.

The **Broke Cup** is also under way. Both of last year's finalists were eliminated early on leaving the competition wide open.

On Sunday Feb 16th Kettering BC hosts two county events simultaneously. The **Lakeland Trophy** – an inter club teams of 8 competition and the **Kettering Trophy** – for teams of 4 and limited to those with an NGS of 9 or lower. Details may be seen [here](#).

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

EBU chairman, Adrian Darnell, thinks bridge needs a rebrand to encourage younger players. You can read a BBC article with more details [here](#). He's right, of course, but it's easier said than done. What can clubs and county associations do to attract younger participants? We'd love to hear from you if you have any thoughts on this or any other aspect of the game or just want to share a good bridge story.

In case you need reminding, I'll finish with this from Malcolm Forbes, former US presidential candidate and owner of Forbes magazine:

"Playing bridge is one of the really great pleasures in life. Don't make the mistake of missing out on the fun of bridge"

Bill Chadwick

NCBA chair

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