

COME AND JOIN US!

The Northern Ireland Bridge Union (NIBU) is keen to encourage Bridge Clubs to join us in the interest of all those who play bridge.

What is the NIBU?

The NIBU is the umbrella organization for Bridge Clubs in Northern Ireland. It is a member of the Irish Bridge Union and Bridge Great Britain, as well as being affiliated to the World Bridge Federation.

The Union runs competitions for its members as well as providing other services to its affiliated clubs.

It selects players annually to represent Northern Ireland at Schools, Under 25, Women and Open levels in the Home Internationals against England, Scotland, Wales and the Republic of Ireland.

How is the NIBU governed?

The Constitution of the NIBU is shown on our web-site www.nibu.co.uk (which also provides a host of other useful information).

The office bearers and seven Council members are elected annually, though the President has 4 year tenure and the Chairman holds office for 2 years.

All office bearers and Council members are elected by delegates nominated on behalf of affiliated clubs. All NIBU members are eligible to vote at the AGM. Affiliated clubs represent the grass roots of the organisation as they have input to all policy decision making in the Union.

The Council elects members to four committees - 'Finance & Membership', 'Tournaments', 'Laws & Ethics' and 'Selection' (i.e. of players to represent the NIBU).

Why should my club affiliate to the NIBU?

The NIBU:

- Can assist clubs in obtaining insurance cover and advise on constitutional matters.
- Arranges seminars for clubs on organising events and interpreting the Laws of the game
- Will recommend suitable Bridge teachers to provide lessons in clubs.
- Provides bridge stationery to clubs at competitive prices
- Publishes an informative Newsletter twice a year.
- Encourages clubs to retain their own identity and autonomy.

Affiliated club members may:

- Play in NIBU competitions and enjoy reciprocal rights in the rest of the world
- Join the Master Points scheme, which measures the progress of member's expertise.

Is it expensive?

The current annual affiliation fee is £5 per member.

Tell us about NIBU competitions

There are competitions restricted to players at different levels of experience as well as open events for everyone.

Players are graded as Novice, Intermediate A, Intermediate B and Senior according to their level of achievement in the game and by earning Master Points* in competitions.

Details and results of Pairs and Team competitions are published on the web-site, and in the NIBU diary.

Novice and Intermediate competitions are generally held mid-week.

Open competitions are generally held on a Sunday.

Competitions are held at venues throughout the province.

There are four Interclub competitions each year in which players in clubs across the province compete with each other by playing the same hands.

We hold Spring and Autumn Congresses, at which all grades of players have their own competitions in one venue. There are regular attendees from the rest of the British Isles. There is a strong social aspect to these twice annual gatherings.

We organise several annual Knockout Cup events for various grades of Teams. Matches are usually arranged by mutual consent between the team captains.

We organise a series of Leagues for Teams comprised of players at all grades. Matches are normally played centrally at one venue on a specified monthly date.

We organise a League plus annual Pairs and Team events for young people in schools.

**Details of the Master Points scheme are available on the NIBU website.
The NIBU competitions are listed at the bottom of the same sub-page*

