



English Bridge Union



FREE TRIAL PERIOD FOR
UNAFFILIATED CLUBS
AND THEIR MEMBERS



Topics



1. About the English Bridge Union (EBU)
2. Why Affiliate?
 - Benefits to the Members
 - Benefits to the Club
 - National Body
3. Special Membership Offer



What players appreciate about the EBU

“I remember when I reached Local Master – everyone was so congratulatory.”

“A great way to socialize ”

“Would not have survived without online bridge during lockdown”

“Everyone is always welcoming and friendly”

“I think having a National body is very important for ensuring rules, regulations and fair play”

“As someone living on my own, bridge has been a lifeline. I can walk into any EBU club, anywhere, and instantly I am welcome and I feel at home”

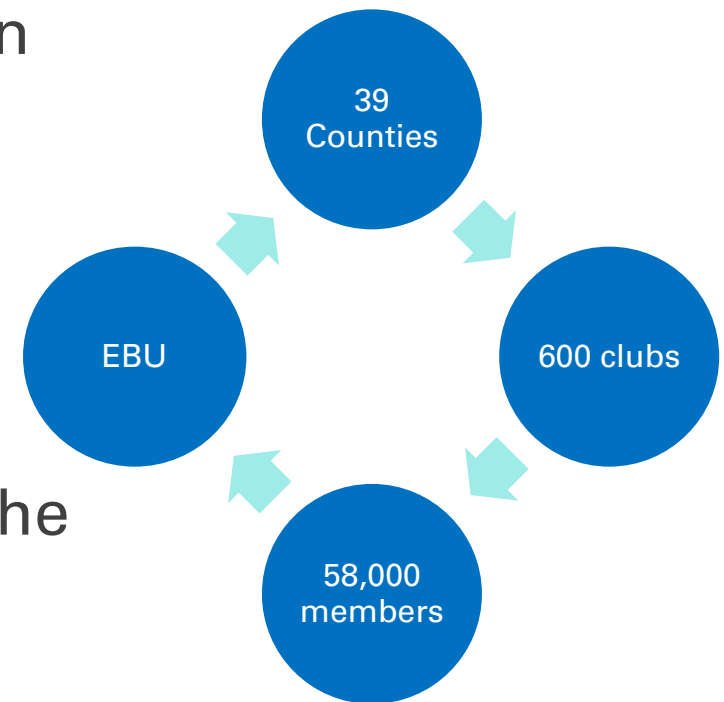
“The directors were so friendly and helpful ”

“I love to meet new players and old friends”



About the English Bridge Union

- Not-for-profit membership-funded organisation
- Promotes the game of duplicate bridge for all players of all standards
- The National Bridge Organisation of England
- Affiliated to the European Bridge League and the World Bridge Federation





About the English Bridge Union

- A small team of approachable and helpful staff at the Aylesbury Head Office.
- Led by an unpaid Board of Directors that supports a countrywide volunteer network of shareholders, counties and clubs.



National Bridge Organisation of England

- **Promote the benefits of the game across the country including well-being and social benefits so that everyone can benefit**
- **Promote bridge to young people across the nation in a coordinated fashion**
- **Work with the Government and other bodies to ensure that bridge gets fair treatment**
- **Work with international Bridge organisations to enable England and Great Britain to be represented in international competitions and to influence the future of bridge internationally**
- **Coordinate responses to changing circumstances; this was especially critical in COVID and will be in the return to normal life post COVID**
- **Keep up-to-date with bridge developments and ensure they are known throughout the bridge community**



Benefits of Your Affiliation

1. Allow your **members** to gain the most from the game
 - Excite them by showing their progression and success
 - Allow them to participate as equals in inter-club, county and EBU events
2. Give the **club the benefits** of all the tools, human and other resources, that are available from the EBU, your county and other clubs:
 - Wealth of resources and services from the EBU
 - Enjoy the support of your county
 - Benefit from the experience of other clubs that have been running successfully
3. Be part of a **national body** that supports bridge for everyone



Member benefits

- **Awards:** Receive awards for achievements (master points) and track your progress; compare to others (NGS)
- **Range of games:** Local, county & national events with players of a similar level or a range of levels.
- **Review:** Use the My EBU page to review all your bridge sessions.
- **Magazine:** English Bridge four times a year plus one online-only
- **Bridge diary:** A diary is circulated each year (for regular players)
- **Fringe Benefits:** Discounts for members on insurance & a few others



What clubs appreciate about the EBU

“Expertise and advice offered especially by Jonathan Lillycrop. Handling of conduct issues”

“Advice on providing competitions for less experienced players.”

“The bridge community needs to come together to bring more and younger players into the game”

“Moving play to on-line; providing advice for the future by email and via the web site; providing telephone support/advice when needed”

“National 'face'/presence, national co-ordination.”

“EBU is approachable and friendly”



Club benefits – Ease your burden



- **Club Liaison Officer:** full-time help with all aspects of running your club
- **Club Management Handbook:** everything from setting up a committee to ideas for the Christmas party! Downloadable forms including System Cards, Model Club Constitution
- **Assistance with challenges:** financial assistance, member behaviour, guidance with COVID and post COVID
- **Admin & IT support:** EBUScore, Pianola website, administration done for you on some online platforms (BBO)
- Reduced **costs** of insurance, equipment, TD training, advertising your club in EnglishBridge



The EBU can help your club expand

- **Club Membership Development Officer** to help clubs extend their membership
- **Free Resources** for marketing and advertising
- **Attract new players** through an active education programme
 - EBU affiliated clubs receive a free club teaching training place every two years
 - A new teaching programme is under development that will allow teaching in your club without a club teacher – ideal for smaller clubs
- **Publicity:** Your county and the EBU can publish details about your club to attract new players, reduced costs of advertising in EnglishBridge
- **County support:** Many county associations have teaching programmes



More about your EBU county association

To be completed by each county. Suggestions to include are:

- Competitions for club and players
- Promote and advertise the club through email lists, website
- Support of county personnel
- Experience and contacts with other clubs
- Teaching, youth projects



The Offer – A Trial Period of Free Membership

Try it out – see if it suits your club and its members

- **Free membership to club members between October 2021 to September 2022** - no fee is paid to the EBU for playing in the club during this period.
- Club members will enjoy all the benefits of membership including:
 - Master points that celebrate achievement and improvement and a grading system
 - Free Magazine
 - Inter-club competition
 - Ability to play in county and national events
- **Free membership for clubs until April 2023**
- Not all club benefits will apply. The following will:
 - Full support for clubs from EBU personnel and associated tools and information
 - EBUScore (a scoring system for clubs)
 - Ten per cent reduction on training for one director
- To assist the clubs through the process of affiliation, full support will be provided by the EBU.





The Offer – A Trial Period of Free Membership

Try it out – see if it suits your club and its members

The offer is extended to:

- Clubs that have never been affiliated or have been unaffiliated since 2010
- Clubs that have joined to form a single club following 'lock-down'
 - if any such new club is not affiliated and
 - providing not all its constituent clubs were previously affiliated

The offer is not extended to:

- Clubs that have affiliated after 2010 and subsequently disaffiliated.
- Clubs that have recently affiliated





Financials

Try it out – see if it suits your club and its members

For clubs not taking advantage of this offer the normal financial arrangements are:

- Clubs pay £27 a year
- Each time a player plays, 40p is paid to the EBU; if a player plays once a week this is about £20 a year or about £1.50 a month. **Add details about county charges.**
- EBU makes these charges so that they approximately cover the costs of providing the services to clubs and members (EBU is a non-profit organisation)





Next Steps

For more information or to accept this offer, please contact:

- Jonathan Lillycrop - Club Liaison Officer
jonathan@ebu.co.uk 01296 317206
- Gordon Rainsford - Chief Executive
gordon@ebu.co.uk 01296 317222
- **Your County Contact -**
- Or visit the EBU website: [Club enquiry](#)