

## What is the EBU?



The English Bridge Union is the game's national governing body.

It is owned by, answerable to, and exists in order to serve, its members. It is non-profit making. Much of the work is carried out by unpaid volunteers including the Directors of the Board and the members of all the committees: Laws and Ethics, Selection, etc. They are supported by professional staff, working at its headquarters in Aylesbury.

The EBU is affiliated to, and recognised by, the World Bridge Federation and the European Bridge League.

### What are the aims of the EBU?

The stated objectives of the EBU include:

“To work to elevate and maintain the status, and procure the advancement, of the game of Bridge in England”.

“To promote, organise and manage, or provide for the promotion, organisation and management, of contests, competitions and congresses”.

### The EBU provides

- The infrastructure for the game, ensuring that fairness operates at every level, so you know you will be playing by the same laws and regulations in any affiliated club, local or national tournament.
- Support, and provide services to, its constituent counties, and to affiliated clubs, to facilitate the provision of bridge at a club and county level.
- Tournaments, congresses and competitions for players of all levels.
- Tournament director training, both at a national level, and also at a club level in conjunction with the charity English Bridge Education and Development CIO (EBED)
- Teacher training, via EBED, to encourage more people to learn, improve and take part in the game.
- Development of education programmes for schoolchildren, students and adults (via EBED).
- Selection, support, training and practice for all our international teams, which range from Under-16s to Seniors.
- The National Grading System (NGS) - a method of providing a current grading for all of our members. This has proved very popular with our members.
- A Master Point scheme, providing ranks for lifetime achievement in bridge.
- An archive of historical bridge magazines going back to the early days of bridge in England. The official magazines of the EBU are available online at [www.ebu.co.uk/englishbridge](http://www.ebu.co.uk/englishbridge).
- A library at our office in Aylesbury available for members to browse during normal office hours.

### **The EBU is at the forefront of publicising and promoting bridge nationally**

- It provides press releases to all the national media.
- It works with local, regional and national magazines and newspapers, websites, and radio and television stations, to try to ensure appropriate media coverage of bridge events.
- It publishes a bi-monthly magazine delivered to all eligible members and this is also available online to eligible members for download to tablets etc.
- It maintains a presence on social media, including Facebook and Twitter.

### **The EBU is currently**

- Developing an awareness of the social benefits of bridge at national government level through its work with the All Party Parliamentary Group for the Social Benefits of Bridge.
- Co-operating with other agencies in the scientific investigation, and publicising, of the health benefits of playing bridge: increased mental fitness, reduced risk of developing Alzheimer's Disease, enhanced immune system, benefits associated with a healthy social life, etc. (work being done in conjunction with EBED).

### **Membership benefits**

The EBU offers additional benefits to individual members, and to affiliated clubs. See our website for more information:

- Benefits for [members](#)
- Benefits for [affiliated clubs](#)

### **Universal Membership**

The EBU operates on the principle of 'Universal Membership' whereby members of EBU-affiliated bridge clubs automatically become EBU members. The cost of individual membership is covered by a small contribution through a Pay-to-Play system each time a member plays at the club. Players who do not belong to an affiliated club may join as Direct Members by paying a membership fee directly to the EBU.

### **Club Affiliation**

Any bridge club in England may apply for affiliation to the English Bridge Union subject to fulfilling the definition of a bridge club: defined as "A group of people who arrange regular duplicate bridge sessions – normally at least 26 sessions per annum – at one location."

- [More information and application form](#)