

You will know from your county work that there are a number of clubs which are not affiliated to the EBU, despite thriving and being well organised. We understand that there are a number of reasons why this might be so but we feel that some of them might like being affiliated if they were given a no-cost chance to affiliate for a trial period to see for themselves. We therefore hope you will be able to draw this to the attention of those in your county who are involved with clubs that are not affiliated, and I provide you with information below that will explain to them exactly what we are offering.

The English Bridge Union is the national body in England for duplicate bridge and it is the regulating body for the game nationally, as well as having over 600 affiliated clubs who bring with them 55,000 individual members. We exist to support bridge players at every level from novice to expert, and emphasise friendliness as well as high standards, so that as many people as possible enjoy playing.

There are a number of benefits of belonging to the EBU, both [for individual members](#) and [for clubs](#). For example, EBU members are awarded master points when they do well in normal club sessions, receive a regular bridge magazine, and can compare their performance to others via our National Grading Scheme. In addition, we support clubs with subsidised training for bridge teachers and tournament directors, and we offer support and advice for running and promoting bridge sessions, as well as help with dealing with a variety of problems that might arise.

We know that bridge clubs vary greatly and that EBU affiliation will not be suitable for all of them, but we also know that many non-affiliated clubs already have some contact with their local County Bridge Association and we are now introducing a special offer for a trial period to a number of clubs, which will allow them to have a completely free four-month introduction to EBU affiliation so that they can judge the benefits for themselves without any financial commitment.

*EBU clubs pay a small amount every time a member plays - we call this Universal Membership Subscription (UMS). Our new introductory offer (which means no UMS would be payable for four months) is now **available to any club that has not been affiliated to us since the UMS scheme was introduced in 2010.***

If you think your bridge club might be interested in this, please contact our Club Liaison Officer [Jonathan Lillycrop](#), who will be happy to answer any questions you might have or help you start the process of affiliation.

Yours,

Gordon Rainsford
Chief Executive Officer
English Bridge Union