



The Welsh Bridge Union (WBU) is a membership-funded, not for profit organisation committed to promoting the game of duplicate bridge, and acting as the membership body for the game of bridge in Wales. It is also the National Bridge Organisation for Wales recognised by, and affiliated to the World Bridge Federation and the European Bridge League. The WBU uses its funds for providing services to its members from the promotion and development of bridge to the organisation of four area associations with a network of clubs and bridge teachers. The staging of events, competitions and congresses for players of all levels. The bridge playing community consists of people of all ages, from all backgrounds and all walks of life in villages, towns and cities throughout Wales.

Benefits to Clubs and Individuals

Benefits

Duplicate Bridge clubs are dependent on enthusiastic volunteers, who make our game an inexpensive and enjoyable pastime, and everyone in the Duplicate Bridge world is very grateful for their effort and commitment. These individuals are pivotal to the success of the clubs, but they may need assistance with some aspects of club activities and this is where the WBU can help.

The WBU can assist clubs and their members by helping with certain activities that may require resources that are not available either within the club or locally, if only as a consequence of “economy of scale”, thus making them more viable to undertake. There are items which benefit the club, and, in their turn, indirectly benefit the club member. Also, there are items which are of more direct benefit to the individual. They are listed below in alphabetical order.

Access to other Duplicate Bridge events:

Individuals become eligible for other Duplicate Bridge competitions provided by the Area or by the National Organisation. Some of these are club based, such as the Simultaneous Pairs.

Club Location Service:

The WBU can advise a member of Duplicate Bridge clubs in his or her vicinity and also advise the club of the member’s request for the location of a club.

Competitions:

The WBU is committed to developing and providing competitions for our clubs providing different levels of access for different levels of Duplicate Bridge experience. Our National Tournament Organiser will be looking at this aspect of club activity and reporting back to the WBU Management Committee.

Director Training:

Certificated Training Courses for aspiring Club, Area and National Directors are held regularly. The Courses cover Book Rulings and Judgement Rulings. Quality training at a modest cost is ensured as they are organised on a non profit basis and scheduled according to demand.

Education:

The Welsh Bridge Union has appointed a Club Liaison and Education Officer to produce a structured teaching program and offer support to our Clubs. In addition, approaches to Schools and Universities will be supported. The WBU already offers on-line teaching material for download.

General Club Assistance:

Advice on any aspects of club management.
Advice and assistance on disciplinary matters.
Advice on implementing Best Behaviour at Bridge.
Advice on any aspects of tournament direction.
Availability of Club Tournament Director Training and support.
Advice and assistance on promotion of club activities.

Infrastructure:

The WBU provides the general infrastructure in which Duplicate Bridge can be enjoyed at all levels. In particular, it:

Provides training of teachers and students so the game can be enjoyed at all levels.
Ensures the regulation of the game's laws to enable uniform conditions of play.

Has a procedure to cover disciplinary matters. The above have been established over many years. Every player in every club benefits from the security and development provided by the infrastructure.

Measure of Duplicate Bridge Achievements:

Some individuals like to know how their Duplicate Bridge skills compare with those of others. The WBU: Provides a **Lifetime Achievement** through the existing Master-Point scheme.

Membership Development:

To produce prospective players to assist with maintaining club memberships levels.

Player Experience in the Club:

New tournaments can be offered either in their own right. For example:
Inter-Club Leagues played at club sessions could be encouraged in a more widespread manner.
Less expensive simultaneous pairs events could be provided for use in a club based on the store of such hands which the WBU possesses.
Provision of computer-generated deals with hand records.
A number of other possibilities are being explored, which could be offered to give more variety of competition in the club, in the hope of thereby enhancing the player experience. This will be done through consultation so that these initiatives are truly relevant to the club players involved.

Public Liability Insurance:

Reduced Public Liability Insurance as a consequence of being negotiated on a group basis. The WBU will continue to ensure that our clubs benefit from the best package

Publicity:

The WBU can help clubs through publicity locally, regionally and nationally.

Publications:

The WBU Competition Journal is online together with a calendar.
The WBU has started to produce an electronic newsletter for clubs, web access at <http://news.welshbridgeunion.org>

Also the WBU will be working on updating and refreshing its publications for students and teachers to assist clubs in recruiting new members.

Website Hosting:

This would enable any club to have a website for its use which could be employed to communicate with its membership, for example displaying results of its playing sessions and producing news items. Also it could be a vehicle for publicising the club to visitors or prospective new members.

All of these activities can assist the clubs, and make a valid contribution to the “health of Duplicate Bridge” in the country. .

Membership Development

Membership Development is an essential role of the National Organisation. Aspects of the activities of Education and Publicity combine to support Membership Development in order to ensure players for the future, which has the obvious payback of producing members for those clubs who cannot conveniently undertake membership development for themselves.

There are a number of plans that we have in mind to develop the popularity and awareness of the game. The following are areas that we intend to investigate once we have developed the existing membership base:

Youth Duplicate Bridge

Duplicate Bridge in schools is currently dependent on the good will and enthusiasm of volunteers which we appreciate greatly, but this does not provide consistency or continuity.

The WBU wishes to promote the fact that Duplicate Bridge helps children in various aspects of their development, such as mental arithmetic, strategy formulation, and inter-personal skills, and use this to persuade the schools that teaching Duplicate Bridge should be an extracurricular activity.

Duplicate Bridge and Older People

Develop partnerships with organisations like the University of the Third Age (U3A), Help the Aged and others to create initiatives for older people to enjoy the benefits of Duplicate Bridge.

A Commitment to our Membership

The current Management Committee of the WBU is determined to ensure that Duplicate Bridge becomes an accessible game for everybody to play. We are committed to:

Having an extensive education programme, with support and subsidy for students and teachers alike.

We will aim for the simplification of regulation and we will try to avoid major changes in the future on those aspects of regulation over which we have total control. We are currently investigating the separation of the conduct aspects from the technical aspects of the Laws and Ethics committee.

The creation of an accessible tournament framework which will develop a structure of tournaments for clubs and individuals who wish to enjoy the game through this route.

To consult our membership on issues that affect the majority via personal contact, emails and surveys.

Creating a sub-committee of the WBU Council which will address club matters and include club members.

Running an effective, streamlined organisation through constant review of our activities and operations.

Developing the game along the lines described in the Membership Development section.

Debating the governance of the WBU and the appropriate representation for all its members.