

NEWCASTLE BRIDGE CLUB HISTORY

(WHERE THE MOUNTAINS OF MOURNE SWEEP DOWN TO THE SEA)

Miss Aggie Gartlan initiated the first club of this name in 1942 and Rubber Bridge was played. Later Duplicate Bridge was introduced by Mr. Ted O'Boyle and the Club was affiliated to the Northern Ireland Bridge Union. The founder Members were:

Miss Aggie Gartlan

Mr. Ted O'Boyle

Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Gallery (Eithne)

Mr. & Mrs. Ben O'Clery (Ita)

Dr. Nolan

Dr. W. McKeown

Mr. & Mrs. Morton

Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Woods

Mr. & Mrs. Phillips

Mrs. Dobbin



The first venue was the Slieve Donard Hotel, for which there was a £5 room charge and later it was moved to the then privately owned River House. However, through the good offices of Harold Franklin, the well-known International Player, the Club was invited back to the hotel and was presented with 12 bridge tables by the Management - it was at the time owned by the Grand Metropolitan Hotels.

The next move took place in 1986 when the Club was given permission to use the Sun Lounge in the Mourne Golf Club. Now Newcastle Bridge Clubs and the Mourne Bridge club play in this beautiful venue and the Maghera Bridge Club plays in the Parish Centre. We are now very fortunate to have three marvellous bridge clubs in Newcastle.