

# HEREFORDSHIRE BRIDGE

**Newsletter 100**

## **CHAIRMAN'S CHAT**

Since the last newsletter, I have managed to visit Ledbury, Marcle and Ross Clubs (apart from my own club, Hereford) and I very much appreciated the welcome that I received. I hope to visit all the other affiliated clubs soon.

It has been very encouraging to find such a good attendance at the County events so far this year and I hope they were enjoyable for all the entrants. Bartestree ran a very well attended Mixed Pairs event where some club members were attending their first County event and most likely their first event outside the safe confines of their club. I hope the experience was not too traumatic and that it will encourage them to enter the other competitions coming up.

This brings me to the two competitions coming up in April both sponsored by Fownhope Bridge Club. Don't miss the Championship Pairs at Hampton Bishop Village Hall on Saturday April 16<sup>th</sup>. I say this because I see that Ken Nelson and Heather Brace are catering for lunch which I hope will not cause me to have a sleepy afternoon!

The Multiple/Swiss Teams is at the Riverbed Restaurant, Fownhope on Saturday April 30<sup>th</sup> and includes coffee on arrival and a splendid carvery lunch. Please get your entries in to Heather Brace for both events as soon as possible.

I am always happy to hear of any suggestions of how the County Committee can best serve its affiliated clubs. Most important; enjoy your bridge!

*Ben Britton*

**Editor Martyn Moxley March 2011**

## **Negative Doubles**

Negative doubles are regarded by experts as one of the most important and useful conventions ever invented!

You use negative doubles after your partner opens one of a suit and the opponent then overcalls in a suit. They let you tell partner what you have despite the overcall. So if partner opens 1♦ and the next hand bids 1♥, then you double to show you have four spades. So bidding 1♠ shows you have five or more.

When partner opens 1♦ and the next hand bids 1♠, then a double shows you have four hearts. (It could also show five hearts, but not enough strength to bid at the two level.) In other words, it says you would have bid 1♥ if the opponents had not bid.

The same principle applies after a two (or even three) level overcall. You are denying good support for partner's suit and showing at least one of the unbid majors, with the values to bid at that level. If there are no unbid majors, then you are showing the minors. The only negative double that promises both unbid majors is 1♣ - (1♦) – Dbl because with just one major, you could bid it at the one level.

But you may ask, how do you penalise the opponents if you have their suit? First, you must pass. Then, this is where partner comes in, when the bidding comes back to partner, s/he must make a re-opening double, which you can now pass for penalties.

*(This is an extract from a Seminar given at Hereford Bridge Club on "The Uses of the Double". Hereford Bridge Club holds seminars each quarter before their Tuesday evening duplicate to which all are welcome. Dates are advertised.)*

*Chris Chowney*



*Ross Bridge Club's Chairman, Brian Henry, with the winners of the Club's Charity Swiss Teams, Bob Underhill, Pat Jenkins, John Griffiths and Ian Murray-Watson*

**WANTED!**

**ARTICLES FOR**

**JUNE'S NEWSLETTER**

**EMAIL YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS - ARTICLES, PUZZLES, ANECDOTES,  
REMINISCENCES, LETTERS, JOKES, PHOTOGRAPHS, ILLUSTRATIONS,  
CLUB NEWS, RESULTS etc....**

**to MARTYN MOXLEY at**

**[marmoxley@waitrose.com](mailto:marmoxley@waitrose.com)**

**15 Pound Close, Ledbury, HR8 2SU**

**DEADLINE MONDAY JUNE 6<sup>TH</sup>**

**The newsletter is only as good as YOU are prepared to make it!!!**

## ***Bridge Taster Holiday***

At the beginning of the year, a company called HF Holidays circulated EBU recognized Bridge Clubs offering what they called a free 'Bridge Taster' holiday for two members from each club. It was to be for two nights at Newfield Hall in Malhamdale, West Yorkshire.

Ross Bridge Club secretary Ellen Davies circulated members with details and asked any interested members to put their names in the hat. As it turned out, we were the only ones to put our names forward, so on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February we set out for Malham wondering what we had let ourselves in for. Was this going to be an aggressive sales session a la Spanish time-shares or a religious retreat or what?

We arrived at this lovely large country house and after a warm and friendly welcome we were shown to a beautiful en-suite bedroom with all the usual facilities including plentiful tea and coffee making facilities and masses of fresh white towels. They do some things slightly differently to other hotel we have stayed in: e.g. no formal reception desk, your choice from the extensive evening meal menu must be made by about lunchtime, and meals are served on large ten place tables.

After a quick wash and brush up, it was down to a large lounge with two log fires to meet our fellow guests, forty-four of whom had come from bridge clubs from all over the country. Coffee, tea, home-made scones, cream and biscuits were served before we were treated to a short introduction to HF Holidays and the hotel management. This was followed by a briefing session by our bridge hosts Gordon Bickley and Alan Bailey. Master points would be allocated as the sessions were licensed by the EBU.

Duplicate bridge started at 5 pm with a break for a three-course dinner at 7 pm, play resuming at about 8.30. Scoring was done immediately at the end of the session and to our surprise we had won.

Wednesday started with a full English breakfast, the usual cereals, juices, but scrambled egg with smoked salmon proving the most popular. A morning seminar was hosted by Gordon and Alan that focussed on defensive methods and in particular on attitude signals. This provoked a lot of lively discussion, which was carried on throughout the break for tea, coffee and biscuits!

After a plentiful lunch of sandwiches accompanied by juice and battered chips, we were free to visit some of the magnificent local countryside and we in fact walked to the famed limestone pavement of Malham Cove. Another similar session of bridge and dinner started at 5 pm and we were surprised again that we came second.

Thursday, after another excellent breakfast, a session of teams was held and we were reduced to our normal position of somewhere in the middle of the pack! A prize presentation was then held with the prize table groaning under the number of prizes, almost every player receiving one. There followed another short presentation from HF Holiday giving details of the special offers they have available for members of the EBU at their various country house venues around Great Britain, those nearest to Herefordshire being at Bourton on the Water and Brecon. Finally, another similar lunch was served and we were wished farewell and on our way back down the motorway. Summing up, everyone we spoke to agreed that it had been an excellent bridge holiday with just the right amount of friendly competition and that we could not have been treated better. Food, accommodation and staff had all been first class and the ambience provided had made for a very social experience.

We would thoroughly recommend anyone looking for a bridge holiday, weekend or short break to consider using the services of HF Holidays.

*Geoffrey & Josephine Baker  
Ross-on-Wye Bridge Club*

*(Why not share your own experiences of bridge away from home with others – Editor)*

## How Did We Manage?

♠A10xxxx ♥AQJ10 ♦xx ♣x

You pick up this hand, and hear partner open 1♦ followed by Pass.

Your bid is 1♠ and LHO comes in with 2♣. Partner passes and it comes round to you. You have enough to compete, but with what? 2♠ misses out Hearts, and is an underbid. 3♠ misses the Hearts and over-emphasises the gappy Spades. 2♥ promises five Spades but not six of them. Double seems better because it promises four Hearts, and you do have tolerance for Partner's suit. Partner bids 3♥. It turns out that partner could have doubled that 2♣ bid, or at least repeated his Diamonds – minimal HCP, but a double would have been music to your ears. As described, you can bid 4♣ (Splinter), which has a chance of getting you to the Heart Slam, on a 21-count. Here's the hand.

	♠x	
	♥Kxxx	
	♦AKxxxx	
	♣xx	
♠Qx		♠KJxx
♥xxx		♥xx
♦10x		♦QJx
♣AKQxxx		♣Jxxx
	♠A10xxxx	
	♥AQJ10	
	♦xx	
	♣x	

Of course the opposition could have made life more difficult, but then they have to be careful not to push you into the making 6♥. In the "olden days" (Sputnik trundled its orbit around the world was some time ago!) how did we manage without Negative Doubles and Splinters?

*George Richardson*

*(Got a hand that got away to share with other readers of the Newsletter? - Editor)*

## WYESIDE BRIDGE CLUB

### OPEN EVENINGS

The Committee and members of Wyeseide Bridge Club cordially invite you to join them on their open evenings.

The Wyeseide Bridge Club meets on a Thursday evening with play starting at 7.00 pm. The object of Wyeseide Bridge Club is to promote and provide facilities for its members to play duplicate bridge in a friendly and supportive atmosphere.

To try and attract more players, we have decided to run three open evenings over the first half of the year. Play will be restricted to using standard Acoll, so removing any worry of contending with more complex bidding systems.

The dates for the next two sessions are:-

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2011

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2011

The Club is located at Saxon Hall, Hoarwithy Road (opposite Aconbury Avenue), Putson, Hereford, HR2 6HE.

On each table will be simplified Standard Modern Acoll Bidding cards\* and while players may vary the system within reason e.g. 4 or 5 card majors, No Trump strength, strong or weak 2 bids etc., no bids will be allowed that are mainly artificial or mean more than one thing.

The evening will be free and run with a host system so individuals will be welcome. No need to give notice – just turn up on the night. Tea and coffee and biscuits will be served half way through the evening.

To enhance the value of the evenings, some of the more interesting hands on each night will be recorded and analysed by Stephen Booth - then published on our web site at

[www.wyeseidebridge.co.uk](http://www.wyeseidebridge.co.uk).

(\* Your Club Secretary has been sent a copy for information)

*Geoff Harrington*



## COUNTY MATTERS

The County resumed Western League matches against Wiltshire in the new year and came away with three wins, a first clean sweep for some time. The A team won 11 – 9, the B Team 15 – 5, and the C Team 16 – 4. Unfortunately in the next set of games, the County went down 17 – 3 in both A and B Teams against a very strong Avon squad, but gained a little consolation with the C Team winning 13 – 7. Hopefully we can bounce back in our final 3 sets of matches and push up the various leagues. Our next matches are against the strong Devon side on March 5<sup>th</sup>.

In other events, the team of Mike Ralph, Ben Britton, John Thacker and Peter Watts finished a creditable 2<sup>nd</sup> in the B Final of the Midlands Congress taking quite a few prominent scalps, while in the same event Chris Chowney finished 5<sup>th</sup> in the A Final, playing with a previous partner from Hertfordshire.

It is also pleasing to report that Alice Kaye, who is qualified to play for Herefordshire, will make her full England debut in the Lady Milne Trophy (the Home Internationals for Ladies), having finished 3<sup>rd</sup> of 17 pairs in the qualifying event. Also at International level, Ben Paske was in the winning England side who won the Junior Camrose recently.

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### 5-Card Stayman after a 2NT Opening

At the last County Training this hand appeared : -

North: - ♠10 8 7 ♥5 4 ♦A Q 6 4 3 ♣8 5 4

East: - ♠6 3 ♥A 8 3 ♦J 7 2 ♣10 9 7 6 2

South: - ♠K Q J 9 5 ♥K J 7 ♦K 10 9 ♣A K

West: - ♠A 4 2 ♥Q 10 9 6 2 ♦8 5 ♣Q J 3

After South opens 2NT, the final contract ended in 3NT at all tables going one down after the inevitable heart lead from West, won by East and with the heart return setting up the suit for E/W. However, 11 tricks are available in spades.

For most partnerships in our Clubs, North's logical bid is 3NT and there the bidding will usually stop. However, there is a Convention that gets round the problem for hands as above known in its basic form as 5-Card

Stayman (or its relative 5-Card Puppet Stayman).

Let's see how the responses in 5-Card Stayman handle the hands beginning with responder's bids: -

3C = have you a 4 or 5 card major, and is mandatory to bid as responder with a 3-card major

3D/3H = our usual transfer showing a 5-card major ie no change

3S = no change to whatever your system dictates

3NT = no more than 2-cards in either major  
Following a 3C response, opener bids the following: -

3D = Yes, a 4-card major

3H = Yes, a 5-card heart suit

3S = Yes, a 5-card spade suit

3NT = no 4-card or 5-card major

After the 3D bid by opener, in basic 5-card Stayman, responder then shows any 4-card major held, or if both hearts and spades shows the hearts first. Note: - Responder will not have a 5-card major as a transfer bid will have been made.

For the hand above, the bidding would simply proceed 2NT – 3C – 3S – 4S

Say both hands had 4-card heart suits, the bidding would proceed 2NT – 3C – 3D – 3H – 4H and similarly for other hand types.

As mentioned, there can be other variants to the above and for any ongoing bids but correct use of the basic 5-card Stayman would have been beneficial to all concern at our recent session.  
*Peter Watts*

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE & HEREFORDSHIRE BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

### TWO-DAY GREEN POINTED SWISS PAIRS/TEAMS

Saturday July 23<sup>rd</sup>, Sunday July 24<sup>th</sup>

The Larruperz Centre  
Ross on Wye

Entries to S E Mathews  
Folly Cottage, Little Birch, HR2 8BD  
[semathews@btinternet.com](mailto:semathews@btinternet.com)

## CHOICE OF TRUMPS

In his Sunday Times column, Andrew Robson wrote "The beauty of making a 4-4 fit in trumps is that you can trump in either hand to make extra tricks. A 4-4 side-suit is less advantageous, however, for there are no discards to be had. The principle is clear: make the equal length suit trumps, keeping the un-equal-length suit on the side for discards."

He went on to give an example from an international match – but we had a very good demonstration of this in the 3rd round of the HBA Inter-Club Teams at Ledbury recently. These were the hands which were played 18 times (Board 6).

North ♠96 ♥AKT5 ♦AKT8 ♣AJ6

East ♠8432 ♥87 ♦762 ♣Q974

South ♠K5 ♥QJ432 ♦Q953 ♣K8

West ♠AQJT7 ♥96 ♦J4 ♣T532

Sadly there is no record of the bidding sequences but the final contracts were

4H/5H – 11 tricks ..... 6 times

4H/5H – 12 tricks ..... 8 times

6H – 12 tricks ..... 3 times

6D – 11 tricks ..... only once

In fact, neither North or South can make 12 tricks in Hearts against best defence (no comment!), but you can make 6 Diamonds provided the hand is played by South to protect the King of spades.

Our bidding began 1H by South, overcall 1S; without the overcall, I as North would have bid 2NT (forcing to game) but with the overcall I compromised with 2D. (A better response would have been 2S after which South can introduce the diamonds). By bidding diamonds then, I destroyed the good work that led up to our 6D contract because it had to be played by me. Immediate 1 down. But you can see that if played by South, the Spade King works and you can exploit the spare diamond trumps – one in each hand – to deal with a club or a spade depending on the lead. This opportunity does not exist if either N or S are in 6 Hearts. Of

course, South might guess that the Spade king was a waste of space after the overcall and convert 6D to 6H – fatally as it happens. All of which demonstrates that bridge is an interesting – but not simple – game.

Oh and what are the "best defences" that defeat 6 Hearts and were missed by 11 pairs? Quite simply avoid the obvious spade lead. Lead anything else and declarer will end up having to lead to or from spade AQ.

*Geoff Harrington*

## Bromyard Bridge Club

Margaret and Olaf Newcombe came 9th with 67.75% in the BGB Winter Sim Pairs. They received a letter of congratulation from Anna Gudge with a small cheque. This followed the pair's triumph in the club's Joan Smith Cup, a tightly fought competition with only 1.5% separating the top three places.

*David Rex*

## Marcle Bridge Club

The club has embarked upon a fund raising adventure to secure capital to buy a set of Bridgemates.

A team of Sue Lane, Marion Wilcox, John Crowe and Martyn Moxley came forth in the recent Newent Bowl.

## BRIDGE AND BRUNCH

PLAY DUPLICATE AND ENJOY A  
BACON BAP

FRIDAY APRIL 29<sup>TH</sup> 10.45 AM  
BROOMS GREEN VILLAGE HALL

## **PARTNERSHIP UNDERSTANDING**

*A regular partner is invaluable if you want to be successful and enjoy your time at the bridge table. So, here is the first of what the editor hopes will be a series of articles on some of the county's regular partnerships. Happily, Sarah Mathews and Peter Watts, two players whose contributions to bridge in the county, the one as a teacher and the other as organiser of the County Squad, have been outstanding, have volunteered to be the first in the queue!*

**Sarah** - My big regret has always been that I didn't learn to play bridge until I was fifty. But I was lucky and was taught by a wonderful woman called Dorothy Burrows. She must have been well into her seventies but she was an inspirational teacher – so full of enthusiasm and encouragement. One of my co-students was Carol Malim and we played together socially and in a club. Our first encounter at a club was when we turned up half an hour late at Newent because I thought it started at 7.30pm. We were turned away but encouraged to come back the following week. And that was the start of a great love and fascination for the game. I then played with Guy for twelve years. He was an experienced player but had to learn the Acol system, because I knew nothing else. We had a huge amount of fun. He was a really canny player and liked nothing better than to fiddle about in 1NT, extracting those precious extra tricks.

### ***How did you come to play together and.....***

**Sarah** - I first met Peter in 2001 when he found himself at a loose end on Monday evenings and asked to play at The Birches. He was a real asset, encouraging and bring on my students. It was not long after that he voiced an eagerness to learn 5-card majors. We started to play at Wyeseide and have never looked back. It was a case of the blind leading the blind as I had only been playing the system for a short time, thanks to another wonderful teacher, Phil Gough, and a very patient partner, John Griffiths. Peter is the most wonderful partner, kind and supportive.



### ***How did you come in to bridge?***

**Peter** - Despite coming from a card playing family, I didn't encounter bridge until University and played some very basic stuff. Being a sport's fanatic, playing league tennis and county hockey for Staffordshire, I didn't take up bridge until about 1999 after some cajoling by my wife who thought I should have a leisure pursuit. I joined a small social club in Wootton-under-Edge (no bidding boxes or master points) and occasionally played at the West of England Club in Bristol. After early retirement and having moved to Herefordshire, I initially joined the Birches Club before extending my involvement at Hereford and Wyeseide. I was very fortunate to have considerable guidance and support from the redoubtable Philip Gough (sadly not playing now) and Sarah Mathews as I began to learn 5-card majors and study the game in more detail. I began to enter County events and various Congresses, while also following bridge on BBO.

### ***....stay partners?***

**Peter** - Sarah, as she has been since we started to play together, is extremely understanding and must have lost count of my non-alerted bids and bidding errors in the early days of our partnership. I began to wonder how many chances I would have. Thankfully the frequency did decrease and the partnership has continued to develop over the years, both in terms of our bridge and friendship. These early days also served to emphasise what a valuable contribution Sarah makes to Herefordshire bridge, with her excellent teaching to the many students

He was a brilliant "pupil". We had some spectacular misunderstandings to start with but we took them as stepping stones to improve our System and partnership. We quickly learned to be disciplined in bidding, play and defence. These have helped us to prosper. Peter plays the cards extremely thoughtfully and well. We study our system regularly and have tweaked it here and there to take account of our opponents' systems. Peter has a very mathematical mind and is far better than I at statistics and probabilities, which, dare I say it, leave me absolutely gasping!

**Sarah** - The highs are that we just enjoy playing with each other and the lows we brush aside and blame them on "The System"! We are both quick to take responsibility for any howlers, and I am sure this attitude leads to a great respect for each other. It also means that if either of us has made a mistake, the other does not dwell on it and we simply move on to the next hand.

#### *What advice would you give to other*

**Sarah** - My advice to others would be to be sure and disciplined in your bidding, study your convention card notes regularly and to be ferocious in defence, but, above all, to enjoy the game.

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#### **MARCLE - Stratified Simultaneous Pairs**

These are a new type of club competition which gives pairs of all abilities the chance to shine at national level. The event was held from 4 to 11 March. National ranking lists and master points were produced for each of four categories:- Overall; Pairs both below the rank of Tournament Master; Pairs both below the rank of Star Master; and Pairs both below the rank of District Master. From the £2 entry fee, the EBU donated £250 to a charity. Hand records and commentaries specially written with the club player in mind were provided.

who have been fortunate to pass through her hands, starting at The Birches, which she continues to enthusiastically support today and running our Green Point event at Ross so competently. I just don't know how she finds the time to do so many things along with her other activities and family commitments. In her play, Sarah is thoroughly competent in all aspects of the game, especially in her bidding and accurate signals to partner, and above all is scrupulously fair to her opponents.

#### *Highs and lows?*

**Peter** - All partnerships have ups and downs, but we have been lucky that the downs are relatively few, and sharing car journeys always helps to iron out any difficulties we've had at the table. Perhaps our best achievement was finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in a National Sims Event having scored 78% at Wyese on one evening, but also playing well in the Tollemache was very satisfying.

#### *players?*

**Peter** - Regularly review your Convention Card and associated notes - it's amazing how much gets forgotten & Don't bid on tram tickets, it may work sometimes - but do bid when you have something to tell partner.

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Linda Gervis and Sue Evans came 15<sup>th</sup> out of 227 pairs nationally in the Overall section with John Crowe and Martyn Moxley coming 45<sup>th</sup>. Peter Morgan and Denis Grey qualified for the B section coming 19<sup>th</sup> out of 149. Judy Mabe and Brian Poole came 13<sup>th</sup> in the C section of 102 pairs, closely followed by Heidi Collier and Anne Taylor in 14<sup>th</sup> place. Elaine Riddle and Christine Jones came 26<sup>th</sup> in the C section.

This stratified event gives extra incentive to lower ranked players and participation in future competitions is recommended to other Herefordshire clubs.

*Evie Whitfield*



## ***There's a Welcome in the City***

Did you miss Hereford Club's Quarterly Seminar in February on 'Uses of Doubles' which covered Takeout, Card Showing, Negative, Responsive, Balancing, Lead Directing, Lightner and Penalty Doubles? You can catch the next one (there's always a host on standby, so don't worry about coming without a partner) at 6.30 pm on Tuesday May 17<sup>th</sup> when 'Counting on Defence' will be the subject, including the hot topic of Signals and Discards. The February edition of *English Bridge* includes 'The Debate' on pages 42 and 43, and David Bakhshi starts a new series on pages 20 and 21 – all essential reading.

Wyeside Bridge Club are also keen to welcome any new players who wish to broaden their experience and are holding 'Welcome Evenings' - you will have seen Geoff Harrington's invite on the third page of the Newsletter - and announced and posted at your club.

As a Defender v Declarer you should try to use the bidding to – count his/her shape, points and tricks and make him or her decide early on a line of play. Signalling, concealing honours, true and false carding in co-operation with your partner will have declarer in a right spin.

Here's something on making declarer decide early to think about.

On the deal below you are East. North opens 4 Spades and the bidding is Pass – 4NT – Pass – 5 spades (RKCB = two key cards and the Queen of spades) – Pass – 6NT.

You win partner's heart lead with your ace. What now?

	♠AKQxxx	
	♥10xxx	
	♦	
	♣9x	
♠J10xx		♠x
♥xx		♥AQJxx
♦Qxxxxxx		♦Jxx
♣x		♣Qxxx
	♠x	
	♥Kx	
	♦AK10x	
	♣AKJ10xx	

I hope that you worked out that if declarer has two spades, the suit is going to roll in and s/he will probably be able to make an early claim. But if South has only one spade, you know the suit will not run. Yes? The contract will then rely on the Clubs and will also roll in after the 9 clubs is run, unless....

...you lead a Club now!!! Which declarer is going to risk the finesse when the Spades might roll in?

See you at the Seminar.

*Stephen Booth*

## ***HEREFORDSHIRE BRIDGE ASSOCIATION***

### ***CHAMPIONSHIP PAIRS***

### ***HAMPTON BISHOP VILLAGE HALL***

***SATURDAY APRIL 16<sup>TH</sup>***  
***10 AM FOR PLAY AT 10.30***

### ***MULTIPLE/SWISS TEAMS***

### ***THE RIVERBED RESTAURANT FOWNHOPE***

***SATURDAY APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup>***  
***9.30 AM FOR PLAY AT 10 AM***

### ***ENTRIES FOR BOTH EVENTS TO:***

***HEATHER BRACE***  
***6 ST VINCENT'S CLOSE HEREFORD***  
***HR2 6EL***

***[heathergolly@talktalk.net](mailto:heathergolly@talktalk.net)***

