

HEREFORDSHIRE BRIDGE

NEWSLETTER 101

JUNE 2011

EDITOR MARTYN MOXLEY

Chairman's Chat.

If you are reading this, then you will realise what a good job Martyn Moxley is doing in creating interesting Newsletters for the County. Please make sure that all members have access to them either on line or via your club notice board. Also make sure he has the material to fill them, particularly a quarterly report about your club's recent activities.

Only one more important date for you before the AGM and that is the Green Point event at Ross: Pairs on 23rd July and teams on the 24th. Let's have a good turnout of County members so please get your entries sent to Sarah Mathews. Some good news if you have friends who wish to learn bridge. John Paterson from Ledbury Club has taken the EBU teaching course and will be setting up a course for students in the Autumn. Please make this known to interested parties. Another satisfying bit of news is that we have one member who is prepared to take the EBU course to become eligible as a County director. Is there any other club director out there who is willing to join him?

Finally, this is the last newsletter prior to the AGM on 9th Sept. Geoff Harrington has done a sterling job of Secretary for many years and now feels it is time that someone else should take on this onerous task. Also our Treasurer, Bob Underhill, would wish for someone else to come forward and take up that role. I am willing to stand as Chairman for a second year, but please note that I do live outside the county and would willingly stand down for a member who is more conveniently placed. Would any members like to put their names forward for these positions?

Keep enjoying your bridge.

Ben Britton

Responsive Doubles

These are takeout doubles after the opponents bid and raise a suit, and partner bids or doubles. Because the opponents have found a fit, partner is unlikely to leave in the double at the two or three level.

After (1♥) – Dbl – (2♥) - ???

Hand A: ♠KQ10 ♥A7 ♦9743 ♣10765

Hand B: ♠AQ ♥854 ♦Q753 ♣Q753

With both these hands you would double.

On Hand A, you will pass any bid by partner.

On Hand B, if partner bids 2♠, you bid 3♣.

Because you didn't bid 3♣ directly over 2♥ and are not interested in spades, partner will know you also have diamonds.

Another example of a responsive double:

After (1♣) – 1NT – (3♣) - ???

Hand C: ♠Q975 ♥A854 ♦98653 ♣ -

The opponents have bid and raised a suit. You are short in clubs and have enough strength to compete after partners 1NT overcall. So you double.

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

Chris Chowney

Ledbury Bridge Club

Annual Teams of Four match against Ross

Ledbury won 5 - 0 this year which was particularly satisfying as Ross had won the previous two encounters. This is a "friendly" match between the two clubs and maybe a good model for other Herefordshire clubs to follow. Why not send out an invitation to a neighbouring club now?

Teaching (not education as the county tends to call it!).

I have been to an EBU Teachers course (excellent materials and structure) and we intend to offer teaching for beginners or improvers starting in September. Four people from our club have offered to help. The teaching will be on Monday afternoons at the Ledbury Community Centre when the Monday club meets during the winter. If there is a sufficient demand for evening tuition then I will try to meet that need also. The lessons will be publicised from August onwards and I will contact all clubs with details at that time.

John Paterson

[illegible]

"The Operation Was Successful . . ."

I picked up this hand:

♠ A xx ♥ A 10 xxx ♦ x ♣ A Q xx

And my partner had been dealt:

♠ Q x x ♥ K x x x x ♦ A x ♣ K J x

It was an elegant auction:

1♥ - 2NT (*), 3♦ - 4♦, 4♠ - 5♣, 6♣ - 6♥

(* a strong raise, followed by five cue bids)

The only wasted value was the ♠Q, and sure enough a Spade was led, leaving Declarer with two Spade losers. No worries – draw trumps and discard one of them on a master Club. Lay down the ♥A – and one opponent shows out. Naturally the slam wasn't bid at the other table. Match lost.

"... but the patient died."

George Richardson

County Squad

The County completed its Western League season during May with some disappointing results against Cornwall, which probably reflected the season as a whole, where the A and C teams finished 7th in their respective Divisions and the B Team finished 5th of the 8 Counties involved.

Throughout the season, no pairing seemed to achieve the consistent results, mixing one good match followed by one not so good. There are of course, some very good bridge players in the Western League.

Despite the above review, the County Squad has been able to introduce some new pairings during the season and this should benefit the County as we go forward.

During the Summer months, County Training will continue and a few newer faces have been identified as possible inclusions into the squad.

Within the squad, John Griffiths has stepped aside from his Administrative role, which he has conducted efficiently for several years. Chris Chowney has taken over this role and is a welcome addition to the selection Committee.

Outside the Western League, it is pleasing to report that Chris Chowney and Ben Britton achieved 3rd place in the Midweek Cheltenham Congress from a field of over 100, collecting several Green Points in the process.

Forthcoming Events: -

July 16/17 – President's Cup in Sheffield
September 18th – Midland Pairs at Tarrington

Peter Watts

♠♥♣♦♠♥♣♦♠♥♣♦♠♥♣♦♠♥♣♦♠♥♣♦♠♥♣♦♠♥♣♦

Wellington Heath

As part of the village summer fete, the Club ran a very successful Charity Bridge Drive on 11 June, raising nearly £400 in aid of St Michael's Hospice, organised by Pat Holliday and Neville Shorrick, directed by John Davies with help from Colin Sandy and Jayne Priestman's cakes.

Neville Shorrnick

Playing with 3 robots on Bridge Base Online

It's not everyday that you get the opportunity to play in 7NT redoubled missing an ace and a king!

South (me) ♠ A 10 x ♥ - ♦ A Q x ♣ A K Q 10 8 7 6

Bidding: S 2C W - N 3H E -
 S 4C W - N 7H E Dbl
 S 7NT W Dbl N - E -
 S Rdbl W - N - E -

I reasoned that I had to keep East off lead and hope that the robots don't do Lightner doubles!

Other hands:

North: ♠ Q J ♥ K Q J 10 x x x ♦ K x x x ♣ -
West ♠ 9 8 7 6 ♥ x x x ♦ x x x ♣ 9 x x x
East ♠ K x x x ♥ A x x x ♦ x x x ♣ J x

Lead S9 followed by Q x and x. (East withholding the King is obviously immaterial)

Then I ran the clubs with the helpful fall of the jack, then the diamonds with another helpful split, followed by the spade ace.
They don't come more exciting than that.

Peter Flagg

Marcle Bridge Club

Brunch and Bridge

Friday June 24th
10.30 am – 3.00 pm

Brooms Green Village Hall

Defensive Bids with Two-Suited Hands

Many partnerships have agreements on two-suited responses to 1-level openings by opponents, using such Conventions as Michaels Cue Bids, Unusual 2NT and to a lesser extent Ghestem.

But how do you deal with pre-empts at the 3 - level (*) or 4 - level? Do you have agreements in place when you have a hand having two 5+card suits and appropriate strength to either compete at the 5-level or indeed be prepared to sacrifice at that level?

One way to tackle the problem is to use 4NT to describe a hand with two places to play. Let's demonstrate this with an example.

Opposition open 4H

You hold ♠ 4 2 ♥ void ♦ A Q 10 8 6 5, ♣ A K Q J 4
We can now bid 4NT

Partner holds ♠ A J 8 5 3 ♥ 8 4 3 ♦ J 4 ♣ 10 7 2

Then partner knows the 4NT bidder has two of the suits spades, diamonds or clubs, so simply bids 5C as if one of the suits is clubs a 5 -3 fit is acceptable. If clubs is not one of the two suits the 4NT bidder will bid 5D which tells partner his suits are spades and diamonds, and clearly with the above the partner would bid 5S.

Switch the club and diamond suits in the example, the partner would bid 5D initially and the 4NT bidder would pass with diamonds as one of the suits but bid 5S if the two suits are clubs and spades.

Peter Watts

(* My partner and I play exclusion bids over weak twos and preempts where overcalling a suit shows the other two suits eg 3H over 3C shows diamonds and spades, 3S over 3H shows clubs and diamonds etc, we double and then show the suit with single-suited hands - Ed)

Partnership Agreement

The second article in a series focusing on some of the county's regular partnerships.

Heather Brace's contribution to the county's bridge has been immense, from her play in and for the county to her enthusiastic, can-do leadership which has turned Fownhope Bridge Club into one of the county's most welcoming and satisfying places to play, whether at The Riverbed Restaurant on a Monday or Hampton Bishop on a Wednesday. Ken Nelson is a past Chair of the County Association, famed for his expertise at the table and flair in the kitchen, last seen in the splendid repast served up at the Championship Pairs Cup.

How did you come into Bridge?

Heather: I got divorced in 1987 and some two years later decided I had to get an interest and get on with my life. I was looking at the prospectus in the Hereford Times for evening classes at the tech college and saw Bridge for Beginners. The teacher was Gordon Thornewell. Three other friends joined the class. The only card games I had ever played were Snap and Happy Families! I so enjoyed the game and on Gordon's suggestion we played socially at home and he advised us to start at Fownhope Bridge Club, which was in an old people's home at the time. I contacted Vic Blossom who said that all four of us would be welcome. And off we went.

Ken: I was taught Rubber Bridge at a fairly early stage by my parents. I played frequently at home, at school, in the army and at university. Later, when living in Chelsea, I played with friends. This involved delicious suppers and copious drinks, frequently until 2 or 3 in the morning in an attempt to finish the rubber. My interest in taking up duplicate was dashed when I was told that bridge clubs were full of rude and aggressive people. On coming back to Hereford, I was taken to Wyese by a dear old Norwegian friend and after a rocky start, I took to it like a duck to water. And the members proved to be welcoming and friendly!

How did you come to play together?

Heather: The first Wednesday we went to Fownhope Club we were met by Ken Nelson.



We looked at one another thinking we'd seen each other before, only to discover he lived only a hundred yards from me and we both walked our dogs on the local field. He immediately split the four of us up and played with me. Ken encouraged me to learn different systems. We became great friends, and I was invited to many a dinner at his house. It was at Wyese Bridge Club, when we had decided to have a go at putting on a Christmas Party with a difference, that we discovered we could work well together in the kitchen. Ken moved to Torquay in 2000. It was no surprise when on a visit I told him of Fownhope's dilemma. We had left the Green Man and were looking for a venue to run our annual Swiss Teams. Typical of Ken he suggested we do it ourselves at Tarrington.

What do you appreciate about your partnership?

Because we play mainly with other people now, our system tends to be not too complicated, but we do try to update it...with varying results! Playing with Heather is never dull. It is always speedy! But we always have fun and when either of us commits a gaffe (all too often!) it is quickly forgiven and forgotten. Bridge has given us a lot of pleasure so we have attempted to give a little back. Hence our various efforts when we were club and County committee members and Chairman to promote competitions and to engage the interest of members.

semathews@btinternet.com

