

HEREFORDSHIRE BRIDGE

Chairman's Chat.

By the time you read this Newsletter, the AGM will have taken place and I will have served for a year as your Chairman.

What has impressed me during this year is the number of people who give their time and effort to make sure that the functions that the County Association provide are performed efficiently and successfully. In many cases these tasks are done without the knowledge of most of our members, so let's mention a few of those hard workers.

Thanks to Sue Munday who provides a duplicating service for all our County events.

Thanks to John Griffiths who, besides being a member of the selection team, has made sure that trophies are returned and inscribed ready for the AGM. Thanks to Sarah Mathews and her team of helpers who for the last 15 years have organised the Green Point Event.

Thanks to Martyn Moxley for editing the newsletter. A big thank you to the clubs that have volunteered to run the various County competitions and to Mike Ralph for running the league and knock out competitions.

On the committee side, Geoff Harrington has for many years taken on the onerous task of County Secretary and has got through an enormous amount of work for our benefit. Although standing down this year we are fortunate that he will remain on the Committee as his club's representative so we can rely on his knowledge for this coming year.

I have managed to visit some of our clubs over this year and thank them for their welcome and hospitality. I will try to visit the remaining clubs within a reasonable time scale.

Enjoy your bridge. **Ben Britton**

Card Showing Doubles.

Card-Showing doubles are neither takeout or penalty. They are also known as Optional, Co-operative or Competitive doubles, and are used in many situations, especially when the opponents' pre-emptive bidding has taken away your bidding space. The common theme is the expectation that our side has more strength than the opponents. Because these doubles do not promise shortness in the opponent's suit, partner is welcome to pass when he doesn't have a good alternative.

Partner opens 1♦, next player bids 2♦ showing a 5-5 two suiter, now what do you do?

Hand	♠ A J	♥ 6 2	♦ A 8	♣ J 8 7 6
A:	5		7	3

Hand	♠ J 3	♥ A 10 5 3	♦ K J	♣ A 8 6
B:		2	8	

On both these hands, you would double. They are equivalent to a responder's redouble after partner's opening bid is doubled, and similarly show 10+ points. They do not promise support for opener's suit, or say anything specific about the opponent's suits.

These doubles can also be used by the opener:

South	West	North	East
1♦	pass	1♥	3♠
?			

Hand	♠ 7 6	♥ K 7	♦ A K Q J	♣ K Q 6
C:	2	5		
Hand	♠ 10	♥ A	♦ A K J	♣ K 10
D:	3	Q	10 8	7 3

On both these hands, your only sensible action is to double. These flexible doubles can be used in many situations. Without them, you will be forced to guess!

If you decide to use Card Showing (Competitive) Doubles, they should be on your convention card, and do need to be alerted as they are not takeout doubles.

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

This is the one hundred and second edition of the county newsletter. It survives (just!) because of the generosity of fellow bridge-players who contribute articles. Can you keep it going by penning something for others enjoyment and improvement at the bridge table? Martyn Moxley (Editor)

Think about your Discards!

You find yourself in 3NT with the following hand on the lead of ♠2

♠ K J
♥ 9 5 3
♦ 8 6
♣ A 7 6 5 4 2

♠ 7 5 3
♥ A K 6
♦ A 10 5
♣ K Q 9 8

It would have been better played by your partner (he always says that anyway!) but you can count nine tricks, 6 clubs, ace, king, ace. Now you have to guess the spade layout, but it looks as if they are four-four from the lead of the 2. You play the jack, taken by the queen, then the ace is cashed (so it didn't matter which card you played from dummy at trick one) followed by two more rounds of spades. So the spades are four-four as you hoped, you relax and without thinking, discard a heart and a diamond from dummy and a diamond from hand. Then they switch to a diamond which you win with the ace, then cash the king of clubs on which East shows out. You're about to claim, then realise the clubs are blocked because of the three-love break. Disaster, only seven tricks!

Let's wind back. You should have realised that if the spades break four-four, you have nine tricks unless the clubs break three-love. On the fourth round of spades you should discard the ♠8.

Now you make six club tricks, and your contract.

The full layout:

♠ K J		
♥ 9 5 3		
♦ 8 6		
♣ A 7 6 5 4 2		
♠ 10 8 6 2		♠ A Q 9 4
♥ Q 10 7		♥ J 8 4 2
♦ K J 7		♦ Q 9 4 3 2
♣ J 10 3		♣
	♠ 7 5 3	
	♥ A K 6	
	♦ A 10 5	
	♣ K Q 9 8	

Of course, if the defence switch to a diamond before cashing the fourth round of spades, there's nothing you can do if the clubs are three-love. So you grit your teeth and congratulate the defenders on their deserved plus score.

The moral of this cautionary tale is that, even as declarer, think about your discards when the opponents are cashing their winners, just as you would when defending.

Chris Chowney

How many times do we hear....

"If partner had the -----, we would have made."

But if partner had it, partner would probably have said so in the bidding!

"I was hoping partner had -----!"

But he usually hasn't!!

We talk of post-mortems, for both of the above the player making the statement loses them.

Another one, "It worked last time."

If it isn't good bridge, it will probably not work for the next 9, or however many!

How many players remember when it works but fail to note how many times it fails?

Peter Watts

Warming up

At love all my partner dealt and passed. There was a 3♦ opening on my right and I held

♠AK53, ♥7, ♦A10, ♣KQ9742

This was the whole auction:

N	E	S	W
P	3♦	4♣	4♥
5♣	5♥	5♠	All Pass

Contract 5♣ by South, lead ♦J

♠J1074
♥K10
♦92
♣AJ1083

♠Q86	♠92
♥AQJ9832	♥854
♦J3	♦KQ87654
♣8	♣6

♠AK53
♥7
♦A10
♣KQ9742

My comment: a nuisance bid is a nuisance, and both East and West made life difficult.

My 4♣ looks OK to me.

Could partner double 4♥ (take-out showing four Spades)? Then, after 4♠ from me he can double 5♥ for a 500 penalty (if the temptation isn't too great to bid 5♠ on our two-suit fit!). It looks as if 4♠ makes, and 5♥ can manage only eight tricks.

Against my 5♣ a very sensible West didn't start with his ♥A which would have given me the contract via a Diamond discard, but instead led his partner's suit. Down one.

First board of the evening, but I'm not sure we'd have done better if we'd warmed up.

George Richardson

HBA AGM September 2011

This year's AGM was held at Bartestree Village Hall and was very efficiently hosted by the Marches Bridge Club.

Ben Britton (Chairman) as part of his report thanked those members, not part of the County Committee, who give their time and effort to make sure that the functions of the County Association are performed efficiently and successfully. In many cases, these tasks are done without the knowledge of most of our members. There was also a special vote of thanks from everyone present for the enormous amount of work done over the last ten years by the retiring secretary Geoff Harrington.

The new committee will be Ben Britton (chairman), Chris Chowney (secretary and membership secretary), Bob Underhill (treasurer) and Peter Watts (county team captain), together with representatives from all the affiliated clubs in the county. In addition, George Barrett will represent the HBA Clubs on the new EBU Regional Club Committee (which is intended to improve contacts between the EBU and clubs).

The AGM was followed by the presentation of trophies, and of course, a game of bridge.

The accompanying photograph overleaf shows some of the trophies and trophy winners with a full list of the trophy winners.

Chris Chowney



ACE OF SPADES

The Ace of Spades Trophy

Richard Manuel & Ralph Rea

NEXT STEPS PAIRS

The Woolhope Cup

Richard Cottam & Peter Landau

LADIES PAIRS

The Lambe Corner Salver

Pat Phillips & Jutta Shadforth

MEN'S PAIRS

The Country Gentleman's Association Trophy

John Thacker & Dave Weller

MIXED PAIRS

The Ray Paul Memorial Salver

Nicholas Duberley & Jutta Shadforth

NO FEAR TEAMS

The Queenswood Trophy

Neville Shorrick, Colin Sandy, Sylvia White & Brian Poole

MULTIPLE TEAMS

The Sun Valley Rose Bowl

Chris Chowney, Ben Britton, Robin Lewis & Paul Smith

INTER-CLUB TEAMS LEAGUE

The Dinedor Shield

Hereford Bridge Club

CLUB TEAMS OF EIGHT

The Chadd Shield and to represent the County in the Garden Cities

Hereford Bridge Club

IN HOUSE LEAGUE: Div 1

The Portman Building Society Trophy and to represent the County in the Pachabo

John Griffiths, George Barrett, Sarah Mathews, Peter Watts & Nigel Edmondson

IN HOUSE LEAGUE: Standard English Division

The Cotterell Cup

Susan & Gordon Young, Di & Steve Martin

KO TEAMS

The Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society Trophy

Ben Britton, Chris Chowney, Robin Lewis & Paul Smith

KO TEAMS CONSOLATION

The HCCBA Teams Knockout Plate

Mike Ralph, John Thacker, Cathy England & Karin Fairweather

CHAMPIONSHIP PAIRS

The Inco Alloys Bowl and to represent the County in the Corwen

Mike Ralph & John Thacker

Fownhope Bridge Club

January 2012 is Fownhope Bridge Club's 20th Anniversary. We are going to celebrate with a lunch and duplicate bridge. This is *free to members only* and will be on Saturday, February 25th at Hampton Bishop Hall, 12.30 to 5.30 pm.

Ken Nelson has kindly agreed to do the honours in the kitchen, hot food and wine, and run the bridge. There will be prizes but we are still finalising the programme. We want this to be a fun day.

All members will be contacted later this year to reserve a place to mark this milestone in the club's history.

Heather Brace

County Squad

The main part of the County season began on October 8th with the usual A, B and C team matches against Somerset.

The fixture list to end of May is,

October 8 th	Somerset (Away)
November 5 th	East Wales (Home)
November 26 th /27 th	Tollemache Trophy
January 21 st	Wiltshire (Home)
February 4 th	Avon (Home)
March 3 rd	Dorset (Away)
March 31 st	Devon (Away)
May 12 th	Cornwall (Away)

For the matches a slightly changed squad has been assembled, but as for several years we are very short of younger players (no reflection on those taking part, we are all young at heart).

The current squad includes : -

Jennifer Baker	George Barrett	Stephen Booth
Heather Brace	Ben Britton	Chris Chowney
Pam Crisp	Richard Croot	John Crowe
Noel Downes	Nick Duberley	Cathy England
Roman Klis	Nigel Edmondson	
Karin Fairweather	John Griffiths	Pat Jenkins
Robin Lewis	Sarah Mathews	Martyn Moxley
Ian Murray-Watson		Ken Nelson
Gisela Ogden	Mike Ralph	Peter Watts
George Richardson		Paul Smith
Neville Shorrick	John Thacker	Tony Truluck
Bob Underhill	Dave Weller	Evie Whitfield

Over the Summer months, there have been the usual Congresses. In these, Ken Nelson and Heather Brace were 7th in the August Congress at Cwmbran, while Ben Britton, Mike Ralph, George Barrett and David Athey came 3rd in the Teams. In our own Green Point, Sarah Mathews and Peter Watts were 10th in the Pairs, while Ben Britton, Mike Ralph, Chris Chowney and George Barrett were 10th in the Teams. The county were less successful in the President's Cup held in Sheffield and finished last of the 9 Teams, but gained some useful preparation in a Tollemache strength competition.

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.

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..

Peter Watts

I lead a U3A duplicate group in Malvern. When there is an uneven number of people, I get to play. On one occasion, we had finished the hand, and trying to be helpful, said to one defender that he couldn't expect his partner to be best pleased if he didn't return his lead. "I'm not going to spoil him," was the reply. The pair could be described as professional Yorkshiremen. Oh, to have a partner that really cares.

John Davies

Bridge Down Under

On a recent prolonged visit to Sydney I decided to try my hand at a local bridge club. After enquiries that a partner could be found, I duly turned up at Trumps of Mosman for the 10am Friday session. Trumps runs at least 5 sessions every day with several classes as well. There are 2 rooms with about 12 tables in each. The table money is £7 for visitors, and £3 for lunch.

As I suspected the standard system is 5 card majors and a strong NT, with weak 2's in the majors. After a few minutes discussion with my partner we started play. 3 board rounds with a VERY strict 19 minutes time limit, so not much time for post mortems! Electronic score pads are used which seemed to be of a neater design. There are no bidding boxes, instead a pen and paper in the middle with boxes for you to write your bid. To alert a bid you circled your partner's box, and there is no method to show a stop bid, also no speaking.

At 12'ish sandwiches and tea which were pre ordered arrived at the table and there was a 10 minute break. We finished at 1pm having played 27 boards and had lunch in less than 3 hours. As I left people were lining up for the 1.15pm session.

Everyone was very welcoming although there was not enough time for social chit chat.

Has anyone else had some recent experience of other "bridge customs" which they could share?

Jennifer Baker

Captain Mainwaring Takes a Knock

It was seven o'clock in the evening at the church hall which the Walmington-on-sea unit of the home guard used as their drill hall.

"Right, Sgt Wilson!" said Captain George Mainwaring. 'Dismiss the troop!"

"Yes, sir!" Sgt Arthur Wilson replied. "Squad, **attenshun**...uh, please. Squad, kindly, dismiss."

At this point there was a small thud followed by a loud one as the squad did a right turn, stamped their boots and shuffled off home. The small thud came from L/Cpl Jack Jones who, for a change, was half a second ahead of the squad instead of half a second behind. This was because they had a game of bridge arranged for an hour or so before going home for supper and, as a new convert from the game of whist, he was already a bridge fanatic.

As the Dad's Army troops filed out of the hall, L/Cpl Jones, Sgt Wilson and his 'nephew' Pte Frank Pike quickly moved a table and four chairs into the middle of the room while Capt Mainwaring supervised. Then, as if by magic, L/Cpl Jones produced a pack of cards, four pencils and some mortar range-finder pads from his tunic. The cards were spread; they cut for partners, sat and dealt.

Nobody vulnerable: dealer North.

West		East	
♠	A 6 5 2	♠	K Q 4
♥	7 5	♥	A Q 8
♦	K Q J 5	♦	A 10 9 6 3
♣	Q J 5	♣	A 9

N	E	S	W
Jones	Mainwaring	Pike	Wilson
P	1♦	P	1♠
P	2NT	P	4NT*
P	6NT	P	P
P			

Capt Mainwaring was pleased when he sorted his cards, and as the auction progressed he became visibly more excited.

When Sgt Wilson bid 4NT, it crossed the Captain's mind that this could be a quantitative bid. He glanced up at Wilson, saw he was nearly

fast asleep and, realizing that his correct response to Blackwood would be 5♠, became afraid that the sergeant may pass and, almost certainly, he would then misplay 5♠ to go down. With a couple of tut-tuts and a shake of the head, he went directly to 6NT.

Before leading, Pike turned to Sgt Wilson,

"How many aces does 6NT show, uncle?" he asked.

Capt Mainwaring showed his irritation.

"Come on private," he said, "get on with it, lead, boy, lead."

Pike carefully placed the spade knave on the table and Mainwaring surveyed his dummy. With ten top tricks, he saw that an eleventh could be established by taking the club finesse and, whether it wins or loses, a 3-3 spade break or, failing that, a finesse of the queen of hearts would see him home.

The opening lead was won in hand and dummy entered with a diamond. As the Captain reached for the club queen, there was a loud bang outside as the warden's motorcycle backfired. Everybody at the table jumped and Pike, having allowed his cards to scatter on the floor, hurriedly retrieved them.

On the club queen everybody played low. Capt Mainwaring now played four more rounds of diamonds throwing a heart from dummy while south discarded two clubs and one heart and north threw two hearts and one club. After the spade king, he carefully cashed the club ace noting that both defenders followed suit. The king, therefore, was the only club still missing and was known to be in the north hand. Crossing to dummy with the ace of spades, L/Cpl Jones discarded another heart.

"I hope you are all watching," said the Captain, "because at this stage the whole hand has become an open book."

A long wheeze came from across the table as Sgt Wilson's head dropped to his chest.

"I really wish that you could remain in a state of compos mentis for at least one hand, sergeant," Capt Mainwaring said.

"So sorry, George.. er.. Captain Mann.. er.. sir. It's all these late nights, you know."

"Well," said the captain, "pay attention now because..." Then, pausing for effect, he continued, "You see, by accurate card reading I am able to determine that Pike on my left has come down to one spade and two hearts so the location of the king of hearts is of no relevance."

Then, playing the last spade from dummy with a flourish, he cast off a heart from hand and faced his ace-queen tenace.

"Young Pike, on winning the spade will have to play a heart! Well and truly end played," he grinned.

With a bright red face, Pike was casting his eyes around in blind panic.

"I have only two cards left, Capt Mainwaring," he said in abject misery. All of a sudden, he spotted a card lurking on the floor. Visibly relieved, he picked it up and upon winning the spade trick he realised that the errant card, the king of clubs, was now a winner and he cashed it with glee. The full hand was:

	♠ 7 3	
	♥ K J 10 4 3 2	
	♦ 7 2	
	♣ 6 3 2	
♠ A 6 5 2		♠ K Q 4
♥ 7 5		♥ A Q 8
♦ K Q J 5		♦ A 10 9 6 3
♣ Q J 5		♣ A 9
	♠ J 10 9 8	
	♥ 9 2	
	♦ 8 4	
	♣ K 10 8 7 4	

"That's one down then, Capt Mainwaring. Does this score go above or below the line, Uncle Arthur?" asked Pike.

"Above the line," said Sgt Wilson, then speaking to Capt Mainwaring, "Of course, er sorry I mean I think, you could have taken the heart finesse and make twelve tricks, um, perhaps."

"Yes, sergeant, I know that now, but don't you see, I was sure that lance corporal Jones had the club king!"

"How could I?" said Jones. "You are the one who taught us that we must cover an honour with an honour, Captain Mainwaring, sir, so when you played the club queen you should have known that I did not have the king."

"I think 6NT would have been two down if I'd known that I had the king of clubs," said Pike.

Capt Mainwaring, as befitting his rank and status, had the last word.

"Stupid boy!" he said.

Tony Truluck

Marcle Bridge Club
Brooms Green

Every Friday

11.00 am - 3.00 pm

Duplimated Boards
Hand Analysis

Bacon Baps
Soup and a Roll

Special Xmas Menu
Friday December 16th

JOIN US!