

HEREFORDSHIRE BRIDGE

SUMMER 2012

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

All county competitions for the year have now been completed apart from our Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Green Point Congress which will take place at the Larruperz Centre, Ross on Wye on July 21st and 22nd. If you haven't already entered, please consider doing so. Entry forms are available on our web site.

Congratulations to the winners of this year's competitions. Our programme for next year is in the planning stage but well advanced, and I trust that you will all consider entering as many competitions as possible. The clubs and the County Committee put a great deal of effort into the organisation of events and a good turnout gives encouragement for future efforts.

I am pleased to report that our Charity Teams raised a grand total of £197.50 with lots of help from the raffle. For this we have to thank all who attended for buying the tickets and bringing the prizes. Special thanks go to Ledbury Club for organising the event and a special mention to Sue Evans and Sue Lane for selling so many raffle tickets. The thank-you letter from St Michael's Hospice is published in the next column.

This brings me on to next year. The event this year was held as the Inter Club Teams only required 4 sessions due to the number of entries and enabled us to use the fifth session for the charity event. We will only put on the charity event next year if the same conditions occur and the Inter Club Teams do not require five sessions.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any suggestions or concerns and make sure that you enjoy your bridge.

Ben Britton



HAND OF A LIFETIME?

Wednesday June 20 2012

Ledbury

Playing in the club's weekly pairs, the first hand of the evening and in second seat after a pass on my right, I was holding this monster!

♠ Axx ♥ AK ♦ A ♣ AKQJ10xx

Hovering over the bidding box for a few moments, building expectation in the other players (?), I decided to pull out.....

So, what would *you* select from *your* bidding box, and why? My decision, for what it is worth, is on the back page!

Editor

HBA EVENTS

Since the Spring Newsletter, the remaining 10 events on the HBA Annual Programme have reached their conclusion, so we could fill up this whole edition if we named first, second and third in every event.

Confining ourselves to the winners (except for 4 particularly close finishes), we must begin with the Association's premier event – the Championship Pairs. Fuelled by an excellent Ken & Heather lunch at Hampton Bishop, 24 pairs played 46 boards in 2 Sessions with Sarah Mathews & Peter Watts winning both sessions and overall with 67.2%.

The Teams event for the Avocet Cup (also run by the Fownhope Club), involving 2 sessions at the Riverside with lunch, attracted only 8 entries and so was played in multiple teams format rather than as Swiss Teams which would have been preferable but needed at least 12 entries. Two teams made 94 VPs (Harry Cleveland, Kate Neale, Liz Drew & June Holmes, and Carol & Albert Brown, Geoff & Madeleine Harrington) with the trophy going to first named team as they won the head-to-head match between the 2 teams.

Now to the In-house teams events (managed by Mike Ralph). The KO competition was won by Sarah Mathews, Peter Watts, George Barratt, John Griffiths & Roman Klis; the same team won Division 1 of the Open Section of the League with 86%. The Plate (the consolation prize for those knocked out in the first round of the KO) was won by Dave Weller, Nick Duberley, Guy Van der Gucht & Paul Ford. The Second Division of the League went to Angela & Mike Lane, Peter Flagg & Derek Wolfendale with 62 % because they won their head-to-head match with another team that scored the same 62% (Lindsay Ray, Denise Robertson, Lin Bennett, Jo Baker & Janet Miles). The Restricted Section of the League was won by Eileen Richards, Anne Slater, Joan Walters, Jean Pickering & Elaine Riddle. The number of entries in these In-House Teams events (combining a degree of competition with a social element) continues to disappoint (8 in the KO and 14 in the League this year) - recruitment for 2012/2013 must begin soon; as always we hope for greater interest.

The 2 Restricted Pairs events were run by the Birches Club. Next Steps Pairs with 13 entries was won by Janet Dowdle and Andrew Davis with 58.6%, while the Ace of Spades (6 entries) went to Michael Green & Bill Williams with 67%.

As intimated in the last Newsletter, the date reserved for a 5th round of the Inter-Club Teams League was not needed for that competition and so Clubs were invited to enter teams in an extra Charity Swiss Teams

event. Eventually 13 Clubs entered teams, with Wyeseide Teams finishing first and second. Wyeseide B (John Thacker, Cathy England, Sarah & Dave Weller) were first with 56 VPs and Wyeseide A (Bob Underhill, Steve Booth, Dave Lait and Geoff Harrington) were second with 55 VPs.

Geoff Harrington

PHIL GOUGH

It is with deep regret that we report that Philip Gough has passed away.

Unfortunately, Phil had not played for the County or in our clubs for some time, as he suffered from a chronic back problem, which restricted his movement considerably. His ability was sorely missed by the County as he was a really formidable player with considerable 'table presence' quickly assessing opponents strengths and weaknesses. Personally, I only managed to play with him on a few occasions, but it was always an opportunity to learn and his comments, always during a break in play, were extremely valuable.

Phil was part of the County team that won successive Western League titles in the early 2000s. He was also part of the team that won the National Nicko Plate partnering Richard Croot, with Tony Truluck and Noel Downes completing the team of 4. He had moved to Herefordshire during the 90s from the Cambridge area and his name can be seen on many trophies at County level and in the Hereford and Wyeseide clubs. He also contributed to the running of the Hereford Club being its Treasurer for a number of years.

Several of us benefited considerably from his advice and teaching during visits to his house on a frequent basis, our last occasion being during April this year. I'm sure he took considerable pleasure from the progress we made with the 5-card major system, but on the other hand, we gave him cause for many heart attacks based on the some of the 'bloopers' that we made. It's interesting to note that he was at school in Shrewsbury with Robin Lewis and a photograph of them both in the school chess team appears on the wall in the lounge at St. Andrews Close. He had also been an excellent cricketer and in his prime a very good opening bowler.

Our thoughts are with his wife Jenni and family,

We will miss him.

Peter Watts

THE "LAW" – 2: Bid to the Level of the trump fit

In the last newsletter, I wrote about the LAW of Total Tricks, and suggested that you didn't need to understand the details of the LAW but could just use some maxims based on the LAW:

- You should always bid to the level equal to the combined number of trumps held by your side
- Try not to let the opponents play at a level equal to their number of trumps
- The five level belongs to the opponents
- When in doubt, bid four spades over four hearts
- When in doubt, bid one more on freak deals
- When you hold four trumps, consider making a penalty double

The first of these is the most useful (and important). What it means is that if you and your partner (for example) have nine trumps between you, it should be safe to bid to the three level. Either you will make, or it will be a good sacrifice. Like all maxims in bridge ("cover an honour with an honour", "lead fourth highest from your longest and strongest suit", etc), these are only guidelines, there are always exceptions, so use your judgement.

Now here is an example of "Bidding to the level of the trump fit". You are playing Hamman and Wolff in the 1985 Bermuda Bowl with both sides vulnerable.

Hand A: ♠ K J 8 7 5 3 ♥ 9 8 3 ♦ J 9 ♣ J 3

South	West	North	East
		1♠	dbl
?			

Partner has at least 4 spades, you have 6, $4 + 6 = 10$, so you bid 4♠ ("bidding to the level of the trump fit"). When the bidding comes back round to East, he has a problem. What would he do, if East held:

♠ Q ♥ A K Q 10 6 4 ♦ A 7 ♣ Q 10 5 2

BUT, at the table, South (the Austrian Berger) only jumped to 3♠ and then passed when East bid 4♥ which just makes, but with 4♠ only going one or two off. It's safe to bid to the four level with ten trumps.

You won't always make what you bid, but *even if you go down, you'll be sacrificing against whatever the opponents can make.*

Of course, vulnerability and high cards do have some relevance. You don't always want to get to the four level vulnerable, just because your side has 10 trumps. However, you wouldn't do too badly if you always bid to the level of the number of trumps held by your side on every deal (totally ignoring vulnerability)!!!!

Chris Chowney

THE DIRECTOR

As I write this, Wimbledon has started, the European Football Championships are nearing the final (minus England!) and the test series against the West Indies is a sodden memory.

All these events rely on referees or umpires to ensure the rules are observed and to resolve any disagreements, usually without facing abuse. (Well all right excluding football!!)

In bridge too we rely on a referee to resolve problems. Our referee is called the director, and The Laws of Duplicate Bridge give the director wide powers to ensure, so far as possible, that the non-offending side is not disadvantaged when their opponents do something wrong, either deliberately (a psychic call), or accidentally (a lead out of turn).

However the powers of the director are severely limited if he or she is not called when the error comes to light. This was brought home to me recently by two events when I was called to the table too late to correct the problem.

The first occasion was after the play of a hand had been completed when the defence felt they had been disadvantaged during play. Towards the end of the hand declarer had said to dummy 'play anything', a common enough comment when dummy's hand has no useful cards. On this occasion however the last trick was won in dummy and the defender felt that dummy had used his knowledge of the cards outstanding to ensure the right discards were made, thereby safeguarding his partner's contract.

Law 46 B (5) says 'If declarer indicates a play without designating either the suit or rank (as by saying 'play anything' or words of like meaning) either defender may designate the play from dummy.'

The director can only allow this option to be exercised if he is called before the defender plays to the trick and so in this case I was unable to help the defenders. My advice to declarer is always to clearly

designate the card to be played from dummy to avoid this potential problem from arising in the first place.

The second time I was called after a lead out of turn. Here the Laws allow the director to offer declarer six options as to the way forward. However, once again, these options are only available before the next player, in this case declarer, faces a card. Unfortunately when I was called declarer had begun to put their cards down as dummy before realising the mistake.

Law 54 A says 'After a faced opening lead out of turn, declarer may spread his hand: he becomes dummy. If declarer begins to spread his hand, and in doing so exposes one or more cards, he must spread his entire hand. Dummy becomes declarer.' In this case also I was unable to help the non-offending side because of action taken before I was called.

There does appear to be a feeling among some players that to call the director is somehow unsporting, which is not something that seems to affect other sports, and I wish it didn't happen in bridge.

The director is there to try to ensure fair play but because he cannot be at every table all the time he must await to be called when some difficulty arises. I don't know any director who resents being called when needed so my plea to all players is make use of the director after all that is what he is there for.

Roy Milnes

MARCHES BRIDGE CLUB

Marches Bridge for All Club ran the Barbara Forryan Memorial Cup on March 3rd and raised £480 for St.Michael's Hospice. The event was most ably directed by Richard Croot, having given generously of his time, and the Cup winners were Dennis Gray and Peter Morgan with June Homes and Janet Holder a close second. Thirteen tables played in the competition and an enjoyable afternoon was had by all.

For the second time Marches successfully hosted a Tournament Directors course at Bartestree in March and April. A club can never have too many directors as directing is an act of altruism: the director's game almost always suffers from the break in concentration when called (*at least two tops?* – Editor).

In July, Andrew Kambites is giving a seminar on hand evaluation at Bartestree followed by practice with prepared hands.

Val Lee

ROSS BRIDGE CLUB

Ross win Annual Inter Club Rivalry - The 3rd Annual friendly match between Ross and Ledbury Bridge Clubs took on added interest this year with some of the players taking part being members of both Clubs. It was the turn of the Ross Club to be host and Club Chairman Roy Milnes welcomed all those involved with both Clubs fielding 4 teams of 4 players each. The omens were looking good for the visitors when their top team of Club Chairman John Paterson, Ken Brookes, Paul Clayburn and Richard Manuel performed admirably throughout, winning 3 matches and halving one, to finish on an outstanding +45 points score. However the final table, in which the 4 Ross teams all finished with a plus score, resulted in a convincing win for the Ross, and meant that they take a 2/1 lead in the overall series.

Results Ross v Ledbury (Apr 23rd): 1 John Patterson, Ken Brookes, Paul Clayburn, Richard Manuel +45 pts 2 Roy Milnes, Hylary Kingham, Jane Winney, Keith Ray +28 pts 3= Susan Shore, Chris Chowney, Denise Robertson, Lindsay Ray & Robert Underhill, John Griffiths, Jo Baker, Jennifer Berrington + 6 pts.

An Open Invitation - Newcomers to Bridge or players new to Ross wishing to demonstrate their card playing skills and enjoy a friendly and social environment are encouraged to visit the Larruperz Centre each Friday afternoon where weekly Duplicate Bridge sessions take place starting at 2.00 pm, in the care of Denise Robertson and her team.



Club AGM celebrates Hope Support Services Donation - Roy Milnes, Chairman of Ross Bridge Club opened the Club's Annual General Meeting to introduce Hope Support Services Charity representative April Hadfield who acknowledged and expressed appreciation for the £400 donation made by members as a result of the Club's Annual

Charity Swiss Teams event, which took place earlier this year. The Club's Tournament Director Jo Baker organised the evening, with Roy Milnes directing and Geoff Baker and Lily Boddington once again proving to be highly effective score-keepers. As customary the raffle which helped to considerably swell the funds raised was in the capable hands of Denise Robertson and Lindsay Ray. April made reference to the value that the monies will add to the splendid work undertaken by this Ross based charity which supports young people through a family health crisis, and is the inspiration of the Charity's founder Sue Trevethan and her team.



Election of Officers - Roy was re-elected as Club Chairman by members with most of the Club's energetic Committee remaining in office where Jo Baker as Tournament Director and her husband Geoff play major roles (*Jo is being thanked above for her sterling efforts in the Charity Swiss teams, Geoff is the one lurking in the background!* – Editor). Keith Ray remains Honorary Treasurer with the Club's Friday Afternoon section now in the care of Denise Robertson, and outgoing Committee Members Ellen Davies and Jane Winney were thanked for their support in recent years.

Roy as Chairman, presented the 12 Trophies that are competed for by members throughout the Club's.

On a more recent note, Denise Robertson and Lindsay Ray finished 12th out of 1034 in the EBU's 75th Anniversary Pairs event with 65.95%. And on an even more recent note, Janet Miles and Lindsay Ray won our Club's first major Trophy of the Club year that being the Ripple Trophy where pairs are drawn at random on the night!

Keith Ray, Roy Miles, Geoff Baker

<i>Summer Pairs</i>	Susan Shore & Chris Chowney
<i>Summer Teams</i>	Team Brown (Albert, Carol, Geoff, Brian, Dave, Nick & Martin)

<i>Men's Pairs</i>	Albert Brown & Brian Henry
<i>Ladies' Pairs</i>	Susan Shore & Penny Roberts
<i>Mixed Pairs</i>	Lin Bennett & Chris Chowney
<i>Club Swiss Teams</i>	Ken & Diana Vowles, Madeleine and Geoff Harrington
<i>Flitch</i>	Jo & Geoff Baker



*Front Row - Lin Bennett, Chris Chowney & Susan Shore
Back row L to R - Keith Ray, Mel Phillips, Pat Phillips, unknow interloper (actually Geoff Baker), Jo Baker, Diana Vowles, Ken Vowles, Carol Brown, Albert Brown, Dave Weller & Nick Duberley*

<i>Winter Pairs</i>	Mel & Pat Phillips
<i>Winter Teams</i>	Albert & Carol Brown, Dave Weller & Nick Duberley
<i>Gwen Pilgrim</i>	Paul Fearnside
<i>Trophy</i>	
<i>Douglas Harper</i>	Jane Winney & Keith Ray
<i>Cup</i>	



The undefeated winners of the Charity Swiss Teams event in March Carol Malim, Frances Nightingale, Lily Boddington and Janet Miles

FROM OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT!.....

Bridge in the North West.....

Do you remember 1987? It's one of those years that had a Black Monday or was it Tuesday? Friday? whatever. Anyway I took a hit to my finances and faced a grim future without luxuries such as our occasional pub lunch. Send the wife out as a horticultural consultant (weed other people's gardens)? Or see if people would pay me a bit to teach them Bridge.?

So – 25 years ago the Bridge classes began, and continued. Half a dozen years later I was off to family in Australia for a six-week visit. Class members were up-in-arms (an exaggeration: they didn't want a bleak Bridge-free break). I instructed two or three of the younger ones in the group how to run a duplicate session. Six weeks on, and I returned to find a small but enthusiastic Club. Weobley eventually couldn't accommodate us, so we moved out of the metropolis. Nearby Ledgemoor (population plus or minus 200) was glad to let us hire their Clubroom. We call it Bridge Is Fun – because it is. We have a couple of distinctive features. One is that there's no need to arrange a partner – if you turn up on time you get a game (I can sit out and read the paper). Every time a month has a fifth Thursday the takings go to Charity (British Heart Foundation at the moment.) Also, a few years ago one of our members created a computer program to help with scoring. Not only that, he gave us his old laptop. So most Thursdays members can go home knowing how they've done.

Our club has a grown-up offspring. A few years after Bridge Is Fun began, members from even further North and West in the County started a Charity Bridge Club in Lyonshall. They challenge us each Christmas to a match – results to date about even. Bridge in the North-West of our County is healthy in quantity – and the quality is improving, not to mention the FUN. Let's face it – Bridge's image is not always positive with those who haven't realised what super people we all are. Discipline at Ledgemoor might be a little lax by EBU standards. Sitters-out can sometimes entertain those trying to concentrate - with farming news at unaccustomed decibels. Sadly, laughter too can rear its head – whatever next? But we do have regulars coming from Ludlow, Hereford and even foreign parts – Wales. We're doing something right.

More information -

monserrato45@portlandtwo.plus.com or 01544 318764.

And the other way to score 630

Game All – Dealer South

	♠J1054	
	♥A53	
	♦KQJ1064	
	♣--	
♠AQ87		♠K62
♥KQ86		♥1042
♦975		♦82
♣J3		♣109752
	♠93	
	♥J97	
	♦Ax	
	♣AKQ864	

After South opened 1♣ West doubled (perfectly reasonable). North could have bid 1♦, but remembered his lessons and redoubled – “We have more points than they have but I'm not keen on your Clubs – unless you've opened light leave the next move to me: we could get a worthwhile penalty”. What was East to do? At least if it made it wouldn't be Game. He decided to pass, and so did South, with some confidence. Poor West didn't have a re-redouble bid at his disposal (anyway – “trust your partner!”) so 1♣ redoubled it was, and when the smoke cleared East-West had scored two Club tricks, two Spade tricks and a Heart. Contract made plus one.

2♣ redoubled = 2x2x20 = 80

the Insult = 100

part score = 50

Redoubled overtrick vul 400

Total 630

Exactly the same as if NS had bid and made 3NT + 1 .

But the drama. . . !

The Science of Direction – from a recent County Event

NS vulnerable

	♠AQ10	
	♥K94	
	♦KQ10	
	♣A942	
♠J952		♠K8743
♥Q1076		♥J8532
♦9853		♦J
♣J		♣86
	♠6	
	♥A	
	♦A7642	
	♣KQ10753	

Another nail in the coffin of the ancient theory of symmetry – that unbalanced hands will be matched with similar round the table.

Dealer West – how would you and partner bid it using basic Acol? Opening 1♣ - East does the Losing Trick Count and has enough for 5♣. West applies same LTC and bids 7♣. Could do worse. But we had Science – we were doing Inverted Minor Suit raises, so it started 1♣-2♣. West raised to 5♣ and East couldn't think of anything better than 6♣. West, of course had forgotten the system – the danger of introducing it to him only that morning! Not the end of the affair, though. South enquired whether we were playing IMR and then West remembered we were. South claimed he could have put in a disruptive bid showing at least 5-5 in the majors, which would have led to their sacrificing in 6♥ or 6♠ - doubled of course.

The Director was summoned and told us to get on with the next board, to allow Directors to consult. The verdict when it arrived: We would be awarded 75% of 6♥ dbld -5 (1100) plus 25% of 6♣+1 (1390). Grand total 825+347.5 = 1172.5. Subtracted from the 2140 (7♣ made) at the other table that comes to 967.5. 900-1090 equates to 14 IMP: Exactly the same result as if no Director had been involved – but the science was impressive.

Possible auction:

<i>S</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>E</i>
1♣	P	2♣	(?3♣)
4♠	dbl	5♠	6♠
7♣			

George Richardson

FOWNHOPE BRIDGE CLUB

The club has bid farewell to one of its oldest members - Lily Boddington - who is well-known in Herefordshire Bridge circles, and also a valued member of Ross.

Lily is moving to be near her family in Norfolk - a part of the country she loves.

A member of the Fownhope for more than 15 years, Lily played an active role as a director of Monday and Wednesday events and as organiser of Swiss Teams in the past. Lily's friendly good humour and courtesy earned her many friends and set an excellent example of how to play a competitive game in a friendly way.



Making a farewell presentation in the picture above, Fownhope's Chairman, Sue Shore, thanked Lily for her contributions to club activities and said her presence would be sadly missed. On behalf of the club, Sue wished Lily every happiness in her new home and that she would continue to enjoy hours of Bridge in the years to come.

HAND OF A LIFETIME...continued!

On the principle of bidding what you think you can make, 6NT got plonked on the table!

A heart was led. I took the Ace. I ran the clubs putting pressure on the opponents. Played Ace and then gave up a spade. You see, when partner put his hand down he happened to have Jxxx of spades and there had already been three small ones discarded on my left. Luck, of course. But where would Bridge be without it.

And again, typical of bridge, it was a pleasure for all four of us at the table, Neville Shorrick whom I was playing with and John Crowe (he's my partner on a Friday at Marcle and Neville's on a Thursday at Malvern) and Barry Taylor (Neville's partner on Fridays at Marcle too!)