

## County News

In the latest round of Western Lge matches against Dorset, the A team lost 12-8, the B team won 19-1 and the C team won 13-7. The County is currently 5<sup>th</sup> in the A team league, 2<sup>nd</sup> in the B team league and 6<sup>th</sup> in the C team league, with 8 teams in each case.

The County also took part in an invitation event in Oxford and finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place of 10 teams behind London and Warwickshire. In a very close competition, Hereford had led at halfway and at the end we were but 5imps behind the winners, and victory could easily have been ours – perhaps one that got away.

The County season for 2006-07 ends with customary matches against Cornwall, which are played in Exeter. Peter Watts

### Congratulations to all our competition winners

#### IN-HOUSE LEAGUE

Open Section – Div One	The Griffiths Team
Open Section – Div Two	The Harrington Team
Bridge for All – Div One	The Caine Team
Bridge for All – Div Two	The Pascoe Team

#### CLUB TEAMS OF 4

This went to the last match of the competition and although Ledbury B won the head-to-head (190 VPs), Hereford B were the winners with 198 VPs. Hereford E were third & Hereford A fourth. Thanks to Sue Munday for an excellent event.

#### County Calendar 2007

SUN	20 <sup>th</sup> MAY – Open Teams	@ 2 pm	@ Tarrington
	16 <sup>th</sup> / 17 <sup>th</sup> JUNE Swiss Pairs / Swiss Teams		@ Larrupeuz



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Please make use of the County Website and make constructive criticisms.

[County website: [www.herefordshirebridge.co.uk](http://www.herefordshirebridge.co.uk)]

# HEREFORDSHIRE BRIDGE

Newsletter no. 82      Herefordshire Bridge Association      Editor: Stephen Booth (01432 354012)

MAY 2007

## Editor

What a couple of months March & April have been. The lack of rain has meant that watering of the allotment has been on overdrive and also enabled the bowling season to start and continue apace, which all impinges on my 'free retirement time'. All this has unfortunately meant this abridged Newsletter has taken a back seat but I hope to catch up again in July. This may describe how your game has suffered recently when unexpected events have given you less time for improvement. With a reduced competition level during the summer you may have more time and enthusiasm for reading, study or training OR even taking a Bridge book on holiday. I hope so.

### April County Training – Slam Bidding

Tony Truluck entertained us to a much-too-brief talk on this subject.

When I pick up my cards I am always hopeful of a slam and, through my rose-coloured spectacles, will always stretch my points to find one. Power and controls were the essence of my early learning on this topic.

Tony, however, gave us some key points, with examples –

- Hand assessment
- Establish your fit asap using
  - simple raises
  - splinters
  - direct game raises
  - Unassuming Cue Bids
- Use overcalls to advantage
  - as extra bids
  - for placing cards
- Never make a wrong bid
  - assume partner has made a wrong bid
  - place cards in partner's hand

We hope for more on this subject.

Editor

The problem with bidding slams, of course, is that you have to make them – particularly when the opponents are only in game!

In a recent League game I opened 1 Dia & Partner bid 1 Ht. Not wanting to miss a marginal game I bid 4 Hts (stretching). Partner went on to 6 Hts.

ME - West	PARTNER - East
♠ A K	♠ J 5 2
♥ A 10 9 5	♥ K x x x
♦ A J 10 x x	♦ K Q 3
♣ 10 2	♣ A x x

A spade to the Ace was followed by a Ht to the King (the correct play against a 4/1 split), on which North put the Jack & South played small. This was the 'freezing' moment = to re check the play. If you do this you see that the slam is now a lay down as you want North to have the Q, as trumps are then 3 / 2 & we get home on roughs – a Club (having thrown two on Diamonds) & a Spade – losing just one trump trick.

So back comes a trump & then the big think - has North got the Queen (who's bothered)?? If he hasn't South has Q 8 x x and you must make the safety play of the 9 or 10, in order not to lose a trump trick. Now you only lose a Club. Partner puts up the Ace & it all goes quiet. = -11 instead of +11, we lost the match by 9 imps = 7 / 13.

Editor

### **BID BOLDY – DEFEND WELL !**

I seem to remember that the title of one of Rixi Markus' books is ***Bid Boldly ....Play Safe*** and I make no apologies for adding my own twist to the title. (*Rixi Marcus was a partner of our Phylis Williams – Ed*)

As we will no doubt have demonstrated to us at Tony's slam bidding Seminar, and which I understand is going to be précised elsewhere in this newsletter, we are often told that slam zone hands decide many matches.

However, I prefer to keep my feet more firmly on the ground and concentrate on defence and bidding games ? I put in the question mark because many of the so-called games do not have the generally accepted values for game but can often be made because of misdefence or generous location of minor honours or similar.

When playing on the internet, if you gain 5 imps on a board you have probably bid a game that only half the field have bid. If you gain 10 imps then you have probably bid a foolish game ? and have had the benefit of mis defence or very lucky lie of the cards. But it is easier to analyse the benefits of bidding boldly than it is to play these hands at the table.

After two matches when we were below our best, we came back to form in our most recent County League match. This hand shows very clearly the points I have been making above.

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

The bidding starts 2 NT by East, showing a week two-suiter in the minors. South bids 3Sp, which is a non forcing attempt to steal the auction (a bid of 3D would show a stronger hand with spades). Pass by W and then N bids 4 Sp - with the shortage of controls, this hand is not really worth a raise but on the principles above, you bid 4 Sp anyway.

Now the spotlight falls on the defenders – a heart lead gives the tenth trick immediately so we can discount that ! Any other lead is neutral as it happens - there being three aces for the defence. The only chance for declarer to get the losing heart away, is on a long club so the defence has to stop declarer getting to the table after trumps have been drawn. The only way for defence to succeed is to keep the ace of diamonds – in order to stop the entry to the table with the queen of diamonds. This play was found by our team mates but not by our opponents.

John Griffiths