

County & Competition News

The Western League matches were completed against Cornwall and the final positions, from the 8 areas taking part, were the A team 7th, the B team 2nd and the C team 5th. Well done to all those who took part.

Peter Watts

GREEN POINT EVENT @ Ross

Congratulations to George Barrett & John Griffiths who won the Swiss Pairs from 88 entries @ the Gloucester & Hereford June Event and to Ben & Tom Paske, playing with Ed Jones & Simon Cope, who were runners up in the Swiss Teams from an entry of 49. Ben & Ed were also 5th in the above Swiss Pairs

TEAMS OF 8 @ Bristol

Hereford had a poor day, with Gloucester & Avon going through as the two qualifiers to the final 8. The National Final has since been played and they were 6th & 8th respectively.

Training Info

When I was searching for the above results on the Gloucester website www.gcba.org.uk (which is one of the Links from the County Website), I found 'Kamboland' – a regular feature by Andrew Kambites, who writes and marks the Prize Defence Competition and contributes regular articles for *English Bridge*. Well worth a look. Ed

County Calendar 2007 **DON'T FORGET**

FRI 14th SEPT – AGM & presentations @ 7 pm @ Much Birch



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Next issue deadline: 28/08/07

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

[County website: www.herefordshirebridge.co.uk]

HEREFORDSHIRE BRIDGE

Newsletter no. 83 Herefordshire Bridge Association Editor: Stephen Booth (01432 354012)

JULY 2007

AGM Nominations

Have we a Chairperson in the house? If there is you will need to hurry as members may make proposals for special business and make nominations for officers to be considered at the AGM, but these must be given in writing to the Secretary before August 7th.

EBU Shareholders Strategy Document.

The County Secretary writes - How would you like this? You (a member of the EBU and of an Affiliated Club) pay NO subscription to the EBU and your Club pays NOTHING for the Master Points you earn. Instead you pay a little more table money each time you play – say about 30p more than your Club table money. Some of you would get your bridge for less than now; some who play a lot may pay rather more. But you only pay if you play and however much you play you still get English Bridge, your diary and various regular mailings from the EBU. Your Club (paying an Affiliation Fee related to the number of sessions per week) gets a whole package of services – including a new system of current RATINGS for it's players that complements the life-time performance measure provided through the free Master Points.

If you don't happen to be a current EBU member, you can register for a one-off fee of £5. If you choose not to join, your table money when playing at Affiliated Clubs' will be somewhat higher.

This is the essence of an EBU Strategy Proposal (and it is still only a proposal); to see the details go to www.ebu.co.uk or ask your Club Secretary. Please let your HBA Committee have your views on this proposal by writing or calling me - the HBA Secretary on ladywell250@aol.com or 01432 851 145. If you have any questions, I will try to answer them.

Geoff Harrington.

Following the series on Slam Bidding the following was sent in -
You Couldn't Make it Up

“How should I have played that?” an expert was once asked.

“Under an assumed name”

That was the feeling I had about self and partner in a recent match on the bidding of the hand below (don't look yet)

<i>Actual bidding</i>	1♥	1♠	<i>suggested:</i>	1♣	1♥
	2NT	4♣		3♠(1)	4♣(cue bid)
	4♦	4NT		4♦	4NT
	all pass			etc ...	6♥
				(1) Splinter agreeing Hts	

The Clubs behaved, and 13 tricks rolled in, but 7♥ is ambitious, in view of the Diamond situation. What of the suggested auction? It is a good illustration of one of Tony's first points in the discussion on slam bidding which you saw in the last Newsletter, namely *Establish your fit as soon as possible*. Why did opener start with 1♥, not 1♠? He had a Club mixed up with his Spades! Partner could have put him into the slam via a direct Blackwood, but after that start the bidding so confused dealer that he was happy to pass 4NT when he could; making 12 tricks. (Another pointer from Tony; *Never assume partner has made a wrong bid*, so keep bidding – Ed)

The hands	♠J	♠AKQx
	♥AKxx	♥QJxx
	♦AQ10	♦xxx
	♣Kxxxx	♣AJ

The play of another hand that evening had some interest too.	♠x
After Spade interference one team played in 5♣,	♥Ax
the other in 6♣, both just making. Is 6♣ on?	♦Axxxx
The ♠K was led to the ♠A and trumps drawn (2 / 2)	♣AJxxx
In 5♣ declarer took a Heart finesse: 5♣ made.	
In 6♣ after drawing trumps declarer tempted	
East by cashing the ♥A, then leading a low heart	♠AJxx
from the table. Up popped the ♥K,	♥QJxx
and now declarer had two more Heart tricks, the ♦A,	♦x
plus five tricks on the cross-ruff, making his 6♣ contract.	♣KQxx

But what happens if East ducks the second Heart?

Here are the remaining cards

	♠-	
	♥-	
	♦Axxxx	
♠Q109xx	♣Jxx	♠x
♥-		♥K109
♦Qxx		♦KJxx
♣-	♠Jxx	♣-
	♥Jx	
	♦x	
	♣Qx	

Five tricks in the bag, ♦A and five more on the cross-ruff. Any more???

Anonymous

Tony Forrester has been writing a mini series on Slams in the *Saturday Telegraph*. His final comment was –

Lastly, and in summary, the following is a good test to apply before heading off in a slamwards direction. If you can remove an ace from your hand and still be confident of making game, then you generally have enough to instigate a slam exploration. If not, play it safe. More matches are lost, tournaments thrown away and money discarded by finding slams which go down, than won by bidding brilliant ones on marginal values which make. Be warned.

Hereford & Wyeseide Clubs now play at Saxon Hall (Putson Community Centre), Hoarwithy Road, Hereford, HR2 6HD. It was formerly the Chapel on the SAS site.