

County News

Again the County will be fielding three teams, ABC, in the Western League and the full programme is -

Oct 13th – Somerset

Dec 8th – Wiltshire

Jan 5th – Devon

Feb 9th - Avon

Mar 8th - East Wales

Apr 5th - Dorset

Your non-availability should be communicated to Peter Watts

County Calendar 2007 DON'T FORGET

Friday 14th September	7pm	Annual General Meeting	Much Birch Comm Centre
Friday 28th September	7pm	Club Teams of 4 Rd 1	Ledbury
Sunday 14th October	10.30am	Avocet Teams	Tarrington
Wednesday 17th October	7pm	Next Step Pairs	Bartestree Vill Hall
Saturday 3rd November	2pm	Ladies Pairs	Tarrington
Saturday 3rd November	2pm	Gents Pairs	Tarrington
Friday 16th November	7pm	Club Teams of 4 Rd 2	Ledbury



**News by e mail / letters to the editor, 62 Huntsmans Drive, Kings Acre,
Hereford HR4 0PN. Phone number 01432 354012**

Next issue deadline: 28/10/07

email: stephen_booth@hotmail.com

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

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

HEREFORDSHIRE BRIDGE

Newsletter no. 84

Herefordshire Bridge Association

Editor: Stephen Booth (01432 354012)

SEPTEMBER 2007

News

This is supposed to be a County NEWSletter but where is it? Although we may have nothing to report as startling as 'Mr Bingley is returning to Netherfield and the whole town is talking of it' (Pride & Prejudice), we ought to be able to muster up a Club report occasionally or has the Online distribution and the County Website made this publication obsolete? What should be its purpose and content? How many members now see a copy or view it on the web? Now is the time for a review? County Sec to ask the Clubs?

As a committee member at Hereford BC I pick up snippets of info, but your reports will be much more personal & interesting. Let's have them.

Sarah Mathews writes that The Birches Bridge Club, inaugurated 2000, has now expanded to three sessions per week for those who would like to experiment with conventions other than those in Standard English. The Monday Improvers' Club has switched to Wednesday afternoons and Monday evening is now an Open Club. New members are welcome but there will be restrictions regarding Master Point Rank and also anybody who would normally play in Ross on a Monday evening would be discouraged. The club is affiliated to the EBU and all members are required to join.

English Bridge

The new editor is Elena Jeronimidis and she has a fan from the free *BRIDGE* magazine, who writes in the August Issue, "I am sorry that Elena J is leaving you. However, no doubt she can liven up *English Bridge*, an unreadable publication if ever there was one". More later.

(If you wish to receive the free magazine *BRIDGE*, you can get a copy by writing to Mr Bridge, Ryden Grange, Bisley, Surrey, GU21 2TH.)

AGM 14/09/07 / Training

The County is looking for a Schools Training Officer. A team had a go at this in the 1990's, which Richard Croot took forward and 'produced' Tom & Ben Paske, who now play for England. Aaron White & James Lambert, past members of Hereford BC, also emerged but currently play elsewhere. At its height, more than half the Secondary Schools in Herefordshire, of which there were then 18, had sessions and I was made a Life Member of the EBUTA (EBU Teachers Association) and got a mention in *English Bridge*. The team also went to some Junior Schools. If you're interested in this, please say so.

EBU Shareholders Strategy Document.

Please make your views known to your Club Rep as soon as possible.

The great thing about this strategy is that it enrolls everyone into the EBU and they get a copy of *English Bridge*. Many of us welcome this much-improved bi monthly magazine, which is packed with useful information for both beginners and experts. The 1NT debate with a 4 or 5 card major is particularly interesting and the 'Leading questions' in the Standard English section were good.

John Pain's **Director Questions** were not overly difficult, but what about this one, which occurred at Hereford recently?

♠x	♠Qxx
♥Axxxx	♥x
♦AKQxx	♦Jxxx
♣Qx	♣AJ109x

West opens 1♥ and North jumps to 2♠. This passes all the way back to opener who bids 3♦. North passes and partner East, after a long hesitation, also passes. South competes with 3♠, which passes round to East who bids 4♦ and West raises this to 5♦. 12 tricks were made as trumps were 2/2 & the K♣ was right.

West believes his Pass after the hesitation ignored it, being prepared to defend against the 3♠. East's raise confirms at least 3 card support, a singleton heart (with 2 hearts then 4♥ would be bid) and some points in Clubs. The 5♦ is a punt and not a certainty. What's your decision & why? = e mail.

County Training 29/08/07

The evening was well worthwhile with the post-play discussions raising some interesting questions. This hand makes an easy 7♦, with clubs 3/3 & dia 3/2.

♠AK87	♠xx
♥AK10x	♥J
♦AK9x	♦QJ10x
♣x	♣AK108xx

Our opponents ought to have got there after East opens the bidding & the auction proceeds - 1♣-NB-1♦-NB, 2♦-NB-2♥(alerted)-NB, 3♣-NB-3♠(alerted)-NB, 4♣-NB-? What else does West want to know after RKCB locates AK♣ & Q♦ & 12 points? Many got into 6NT, which was lucky to make

If you're sitting North with

♠KQ6
♥987
♦876
♣A1063

and East opens 1♥ and partner overcalls 2♦, NB from West and you say?

What system are you playing? If partner doubles must he/she have 4 spades? What point range do you allow for a hand without 4 spades?

In the event all passed and South had

♠A4
♥A5
♦AKJ93
♣Q985

With East, the opener holding two doubletons ♦Q5 & ♣KJ and spades split 4/4 then 6♦ or 6♣ can make.

So did you pass or bid 3♦ or even the friskier 2♥?

Hope you'll bid next time and if partner has overcalled on rubbish, give them a good dressing down (later = the [BB@B](#) code) & refer them to this item. Ed.