

County Team News

The County opened their Western League season against Somerset with perhaps disappointing results. The A team (John Griffiths, George Barrett, Richard Croot, Tony Truluck) lost 19-1, the B Team (Linda Scott, George Richardson, Dave Weller, Peter Watts) won 16-4 while the C Team (Bob Underhill, Liz Drew, Jutta Shadforth, John Crowe) lost 15-5.

In the Gloucestershire Invitational Everett Cup, the County finished a close 2nd in a field of 7 teams in the round-robin event. Losing one match 20-0 proved critical for the team of Derrick Munday, Sue Munday, John Griffiths and Sarah Mathews.

The County are now preparing for the prestigious Tollemache Cup, which takes place in November. The selected team is Ben Paske, Tom Paske, Richard Croot, Tony Truluck, Noel Downes, Nigel Edmondson, John Griffiths, George Barrett, Mike Ralph, John Thacker with Peter Watts as reserve and n-p capt.

Calendar

Friday 16 th November	7pm	Club Teams of 4 Rd 2	Ledbury
Friday 11 th January	7pm	National Pairs Qualifier	Bartestree
Friday 18 th January	7pm	Club Teams of 4 Rd 3	Ledbury
Friday 1 st February	7pm	No Fear Teams	Bartestree



**News by e mail(Word)/ letters to the editor, 62 Huntsmans Drive, Kings Acre,
Hereford HR4 0PN. Phone number 01432 354012
Next issue deadline: 28/12/07 for the January Issue**

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. 85

Herefordshire Bridge Association

Editor: Stephen Booth (01432 354012)

NOVEMBER 2007

Introducing our new Chairman – Tony Shadforth

Since taking on the Chair at the HBA I have had to ask myself what its function is. I recognise we have a constitutional role in representing our affiliated clubs at the EBU interface. I also understand we have an important responsibility to propagate bridge through schools development and training activities.

But what does the average Herefordshire EBU member expect of us ? It must surely be to look to the HBA to organise a programme of varied events that complements that of the clubs. I am visiting as many of the clubs as I can at present, endeavouring to get some feedback. I do not encounter too much enthusiasm for County events. Why so ?

I know there is no such thing as the average member – we come in all shapes. There are those who definitely have no interest in playing bridge outside their own clubs. At the other extreme we are blessed with skilled players having the talent and commitment to compete at the highest level. The Association has a clear duty to support these players by providing well-run competitions, by coaching, and by sponsoring and supporting their participation at inter-county level and beyond.

Finally, there is a sizeable number of players keen to advance their game, and keen to measure themselves against higher standards. Our difficulty is in attracting these players in sufficient numbers to assure successful and viable events. This seems to be because they feel uncomfortable and exposed in an unfamiliar bridge-playing environment where they believe they run the risk of being intimidated by the expertise and confidence of more advanced players, and where they consider their hopes of success are slight. (This latter point can be addressed by classifying entries by skill level where it makes sense to do so, widening our opportunities to recognise success. We shall look into this.)

So we have a conundrum here but it should not be too difficult to fix. We subscribe to the EBU's ethos of providing opportunities to play bridge in a competitive but friendly environment. The recently introduced code of 'best behaviour @ bridge' underlines the importance of courteous and considerate conduct to one's fellow players. All we need therefore is for these club players to enrol in County events confident that we are promoting this culture, and confident that the more advanced players will give them the necessary space and consideration that they themselves needed at one time. And finally we will appoint Tournament Directors sensitive to this issue and committed to upholding a civilised culture. So please examine our programme and take full advantage of it!

HBA News - Conduct Committee

At its November meeting the Full Committee approved changes in the membership of the Association's Conduct Committee.

It was agreed that existing members, having served on the Committee for over to years, should be thanked for their contributions and relieved of this responsibility. The new appointments, which will be limited to two years, are Jennifer Baker, Jo Baker, John Thacker and Gordon Thornewell.

Director - Question?

West had 'unauthorised information' when he bid over his partner's 4Diamonds after partner had earlier hesitated in the auction & cannot bid 5D. But 'it is a close call & I would not be upset to be overruled' - David Stevenson, EBU Consultant.

Director - Answer!

The EBU are setting up a Club Director's Course at the Galanthus Gallery, Wormbridge (A465 to Abergavenny) on the following dates

12/01/08	Essentials	£32
16/02/08	Rule Book	£37
01/03/08	Judgement Rulings	£37

10.30am – 4.30 pm each day. Entry Forms on the EBU website.

There's a Café on site for drinks, sandwiches & light lunch.

If you're interested get your Club to sponsor you.

What a Hand – Peter Watts

The following hand appeared at the Birches on October 22nd. You have bid decently on these East/West cards to a 7 Spade contract for West and West receives a favourable diamond lead: -

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

West wins with the QDia and a low trump finds North discarding – OUCH. First response is, of course, to PANIC but in these situations and in many at the bridge table, always look for a possible layout of the cards that will work in your favour and most of all DON'T GIVE UP. As West is sitting behind South, if South has 3 clubs then we can force a trump and over-ruff, so the plan is to play a low club from dummy, play ADia to clear the losing 10Hts (or get blocked off and concede KH), then CQ and the last club from West. Then run clubs from dummy until South ruffs or otherwise throw away. If South ruffs, over ruff, clear trumps and despite the 5- 0 trump you are home for a 2210 score and probably a top.

The South hand was

♠10,9,8,6,4
♥K,7,5
♦K,7
♣8,5,4

Of course, if the contract had been 7NT there wouldn't have been a story,

TOP TIP from the County Training evening

If you are holding 3 cards of an opener's suit, why compete?

Holding the following hand, after the dealer, playing 5 card majors, has opened 1Sp, are you going to bid 2Diamonds?

♠K,9,x
♥x,x
♦A,Q,10,x,x
♣Q,x

Any overcall, with a hand that's not going anywhere, gives the opener's partner two more options in the bidding = Double or 3Dia(cue bid). If your partner has anything, he/she will compete so you don't need to right now.

Discipline is a key feature of good bidding.

Ed.