

## County Team News

The main focus during the last two months was the Tollemache Cup Qualifier held in Hinckley at the end of November. The Herefordshire side won 3 of 8 matches and consequently failed to reach the Finals. However, the County at times played some really good bridge and were the only team to beat Gloucestershire, who hold the Cup and also had good wins against the seeded Hertfordshire side and Somerset. Unfortunately in other matches, mistakes were punished by our opponents and apart from losing a half-time lead against Mid-Wales, we were always up against it. Despite our results, credit again to the Paske brothers (Ben and Tom), who were our leading pair and they confirmed their progress over the last twelve months.

In the recent Western League matches against Wiltshire, the A team came back from an early deficit to draw achieve a winning draw 10-10 in vps (89 -87 onimps), while the B team lost what appeared a winning lead to go down 12-8 and the C team, who were in contention for 30 boards, sank to a 19-1 defeat after a poor last 10 boards.

## Calendar

Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> January	7pm	National Pairs Qualifier	Bartestree
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> January	7pm	Club Teams of 4 Rd 3	Ledbury
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> February	7pm	No Fear Teams	Bartestree
Sunday 10th February	10.30am	Swiss Pairs	Tarrington
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	7pm	Mixed Pairs	Bartestree
Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	2pm	Club Teams of 8	Tarrington



***News by e mail(Word)/ letters to the editor, 62 Huntsmans Drive, Kings Acre,  
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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. 85    Herefordshire Bridge Association    Editor: Stephen Booth (01432 354012)

JANUARY 2008

## Chairman's Chat

As we start 2008 I feel the Association does so in good heart and in good shape. There is the successful launch of a new club at Much Marcle (contact is Evie Whitfield). Increased opportunities for playing bridge are to be welcomed and it is interesting to observe that our affiliated clubs who choose to run daytime sessions are well supported.

Another report in this number announces that Herefordshire plans to host the first of a new annual event involving teams from other Counties in the region. It is important that our fixture list offers members some opportunity to pitch themselves against players from other Counties – hence this event, and similarly a pairs competition is planned for September.

We are still at a fairly early stage in our events programme for 2007/08 but I am really delighted to report to you that, with the exception of the Men's Pairs where the entry level was slightly down, entries overall have increased by over 50% compared to last year. A wide variety of events are crowded into these next four months and I strongly commend these to you.

So welcome to 2008 and it is my pleasure to wish fellow bridge players in the County success and enjoyment at the bridge table.

Tony Shadforth

## Reminder

To those members who collect and register Master Points that the EBU MP year now ends on Dec 31st. You can send in accumulated 2007 points before 21st January 2008, but don't include any points awarded in 2008. The points awarded by clubs who no longer issue paper points will be downloaded directly to the EBU by that date.    Secretary

**Martyn Moxley** is the new County Youth Development Officer

## **Membership news**

EBU/HBA subscriptions fall due on 1st April and your renewal slips will be included with the February edition of English Bridge. Members who currently pay by direct debit will have their subscriptions collected as normal and need do nothing but there will be a change for those members who currently pay via their clubs or to me.

In its move towards Membership centralisation, EBU membership services will take over subscription administration this year and will be asking you to send your payments direct to Aylesbury for processing - please make your cheques payable to 'EBU' from now on. Your club representatives will no longer be responsible for collecting your subscriptions but will still be happy to answer any queries you may have. If payments do find their way to me I will, of course, forward them for you.

Your committee has agreed to leave HBA subscription rates unchanged for the coming year for both members and clubs at £3.50 per member and £14 per club and the EBU has raised subscriptions by just 50p for both to £17 per member and £20.50 per club.

### **Total Subscription for 2008/2009**

Full members	20.50
Junior members (under 25 on 01/01/08)	5.00
Junior members (under 17 on 01/01/08)	2.00
Clubs	34.50
Dual members (full member of another county)	4.00

If you have any query do get in touch with me or your club representative - we are there to help in any way we can.

Best wishes for 2008  
Pat Jenkins, Membership secretary

## **County News**

HBA, like most County Associations, has run an annual Open Teams event to which neighbouring counties have been invited to send teams. Again, in common with the other counties, we have found it increasingly difficult to achieve an adequate number of teams willing to enter - last year we had only one out-of-county entry. So the counties in the region have put their heads

together and decided to go for a single Inter-county teams and a single Inter-county pairs event to be run annually with the host county rotating. The first new teams event, to be in Multiple Teams format, is to be hosted by Herefordshire and will replace the Open Teams event in our current programme on June 8th at Tarrington. Each of the 5 host counties (Worcestershire, Warwickshire, Staffs & Shropshire, Derbyshire and Herefordshire) will enter 2 teams and neighbouring counties will be invited to send one - so we will be looking for up to 15 entries.

In the next Newsletter, we will explain the new inter-county pairs event to be held in September. These events are for county-level players but we want to encourage inter-county events at all levels. So we shall shortly be announcing a new opportunity for Herefordshire Club teams to spread their wings - this will ensure that those local teams who used to enjoy the Open event do not lose an annual opportunity to play teams from other counties.

Geoff Harrington, Secretary

## **Signals and Discards**

Do you have a system for Signals and Discards with your regular partners, if so how well do you use it? Do you get lazy and lose concentration? I do. Isn't it embarrassing when partner has made a discard and the opposition ask the question 'What discards are you playing, or what Signals are you using?' - partner has turned his card over and you've forgotten or ignored it. On the other hand what a nice feeling when partner and yourself are in unison and you get a contract down as result. Try this one from a recent hand we played: -

You hold ♠A9643, ♥Q105, ♦864, ♣75.

The opposition open 1NT (12 to 14 pts), pass, 2♠ (showing 11pts), pass, 3NT. I have 6pts, so partner probably has 9pts. What do we lead? 4<sup>th</sup> highest? On this occasion, yes, the opposition have not used Stayman (for the majors) or transferred to show majors, so off we go with ♠4. Dummy has ♠KQ5 and declarer plays ♠K & partner ♠2 (showing 3 or 1), then partner gets in on the third round of Clubs and leads back a Spade. Now we play the ♠6 to show an odd number in the suit, the ♠3 would show an even number, and certainly not our ♠A now, however tempting, as we are trying to get this contract down. Declarer is now on the back foot and eventually partner regains the lead and having observed the suit count, supported by declarer showing a doubleton on his pips, leads his third spade to enable 3 winning spades to be cashed. Wouldn't it be marvellous if we could do this more often, hopefully 2008 will see this part of my game improve. Are you like me in this respect?

The message is - if you haven't a discarding or signalling system, it is well worth having one, if you've got one, keep concentration, use it and support partner's information.

Peter Watts, County Training Manager