

Club & County News

The new Club at **Much Marcle** welcomes players to friendly duplicate bridge with EBU master points. A host is available for those without a partner @ Much Marcle Memorial Hall, every Friday, starting at 11.50am & finish around 15.30. Bring a packed lunch. Contact Evie Whitfield 01531 670239.

Fownhope BC have a new Secretary, Barbara Ferris, and website through Ecats. Classes, through 'Bridge for All', will take place at Hampton Bishop and are open to everyone – you don't need to be a Fownhope member. Chairman Mel Phillips announced to members of **Ross Bridge Club**, at one of their regular sessions last month, that he wished to stand down from the chairmanship when his term of office finishes in April. He recalled that in the 13 years of chairing the Club he had seen both it's programme of events and number of members grow strongly while at the same time staying true to the Club's reputation of offering competitive bridge in a friendly environment.

In the **Western League** Herefordshire did a 'semi-whitewash' on East Wales. The A team (Peter Watts/Richard Croot + Mike Ralph/Ben Britton) won 12-8, B team (John Griffiths/Dave Weller + Pat Jenkins/Steve Booth) won 13-7 & the C team (Peter Bellamy/Malc Green + Martyn Moxley/Nev Shorrick) won 19-1.

Calendar

Friday 14 th March	7pm	Club Teams of 4 Rd 4	Ledbury
Sunday 6 th April	10.30am	Multiple Teams of 4	Tarrington
Saturday 12 th April	10.30am	Championship Pairs	Tarrington
Monday 21 st April	7pm	Ace of Spades	Ross
Sunday 8 th June	2pm	Midlands Team Challenge Bowl – open to HBA Clubs (contact Secretary)	Tarrington
Sat/Sun 21/22 June	See Leaflet	Green Point Prs & Teams	Ross

News by e mail(Word)/ letters to the editor, 62 Huntsmans Drive, Kings Acre, Hereford HR4 0PN. 01432 354012 by 31/04/08 for the MAY 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. 87 Herefordshire Bridge Association Editor: Stephen Booth (01432 354012)

MARCH 2008

News-News-News

Announcement by the EBU -

'At the January meeting various awards were made for the year 2007:-

Young Player of the Year - **Tom Paske**
Young Pair of the Year - **Ed Jones and Ben Paske**

The Alex Salisbury* Award which is awarded to the adult who has made an outstanding contribution to the development of youth bridge by a school teacher goes to **Richard Croot**. Richard is a teacher at the Hereford Cathedral School which produced both Tom and Ben Paske and, in addition to promoting school bridge for many years, has managed to persuade his school to put bridge on the school curriculum, so that in a few years time every member of the school will have received at least six school lessons on bridge.'

Congratulations to Tom, Ben and Richard

Ben & Tom's meteoric rise is equivalent to Rooney and Ronaldo on the football field – and they're not brothers. Fantastic.

(*Alex Salisbury ran the EBU's Schools' programme in the 90's and, whilst on a Sunday-Sunday holiday in Brixham with Margaret and our youngest two, I skipped off on the Saturday to attend one of his seminars in Wokingham, Surrey – a 7am-7pm away day + a few miles, which probably took Margaret about a couple of years to forgive – I was a bit keen, & mad, in those days.) Editor

The announcement, by Mike Amos of the EBU, continues -

'Currently there are only 249 youth members and 12 Counties do not have a County Youth Officer. We hope to increase the number of junior players substantially and also hope that all Counties will appoint an active County Youth Officer. It really is important that we introduce our marvellous game to the Under 25 scene.'

Our CYO Martyn Moxley will require help from us all, if we are to continue to live up to the standards we've set.

Chairman's Chat

Bi-monthly issues of the electronic version of this Newsletter have now been produced throughout 2007 and this is a good opportunity to review experience.

It is pretty clear that we have two main challenges; communication, or connection with our readership, and contents.

We had to cease the production of hard copies on grounds of expense. Members with internet connections may readily download their own copy of this Newsletter. Those without this facility rely on copies being posted on Club notice boards or on being provided with their own hard copy by the Club Secretary. I would like to ask all Clubs to identify the members who fall into this category so that the provision of Newsletters may be made to them routinely.

Turning now to content, and as a run of the mill reader, it is obvious to me that the Newsletter is lacking its staple ingredient – *news* !

Our Editor can only report events if they are reported to him. There is so much happening in our members' lives and in our Club affairs that we are really missing out in not sharing these news items more widely. So let me appeal to you, dear reader, to be conscious of this and report such happenings and items to your Club Secretary or Club representative.

Tony Shadforth

A good story from a recent local **Swiss Teams event from Judy Mabe partnering Elaine Riddle.**

Partner responds 4NT to my 1♣, and with my 11 points (we are not bold and rarely bid slams) I inform partner that I have 1 Ace. 6NT comes back, and this is immediately doubled. I've got a void in Hearts and we are Vulnerable, so things don't look promising. I do have 7 Clubs though, so I bid 7♣ - which is doubled again. However, after the ♥A lead, which I ruff, we score 2330 points.

The maxim is, 'never double for one trick off', and never double if they may have a get-out option. The number of times you miss-defend will outweigh your gains. Once I was on lead against 7NT, which my partner has doubled (with the ♦A), I hold ♦K93 + 10 other cards. Do I lead the ♦K? Not on your life!

Our contributor NEO writes on

The Losing Trick Count (LTC)

Most of you will be au fait with the mechanics of the LTC (if not, ask or borrow a book on the subject. Ed) so I will not bore you with the details but demonstrate how useful it can be to your bidding decisions.

The other night I was playing on the computer and had two successive hands where the use of the LTC was one method of assessing the potential of the two hands. I was sitting East for this first hand

North	♠AK942 ♥J86	♦AK2	♣Q5
East	♠6 ♥K1043	♦864	♣AJ764
South	♠73 ♥Q	♦QJ10753	♣75.
West	♠QJ1085 ♥A9752	♦9	♣K10.

West opened 1♠, pass*, 1NT, pass
2♥, pass, 3♥, pass
pass? pass

pass* Many would overcall 1NT, but after a Double by me, we would have arrived at the same decision point.

With a fit in Hearts I apply the LTC (8 losers) and with partner showing, in principle, a 7 loser hand, bid the invitational 3♥. My partner, although holding only minimum high card points (HCP), should apply the LTC and count only 6 losers. With one less than 'normal' he should bid 4♥ & a very good game.

The second hand, when I was North, was -

North	♠2	♥A95	♦K9432	♣AQ82
East	♠AJ98743	♥Q8	♦Q5	♣75
South	♠Q5	♥K4	♦AJ1087	♣KJ106
West	♠K106	♥J107632	♦6	♣943

South opened 1♦, pass, 2♣, 2♠
3♣, 3♠, 4NT 5♠
pass pass Dbl all pass

After the 5♠ bid it is now my partner's turn to refer to the LTC, as I have shown a 6 loser hand or better. With his hand it should point to 6♣ being a good contract on a combined loser count of 12.

I know that many of you will be using less simple systems that overcome some of the problems that these two hands present but the LTC always has relevance in a fit auction.