

## Western League

Peter Watts

At the Western League AGM in May, we agreed our fixtures for next season reversing venues from this season. These are (all Saturdays)

October 11th 2008 - Somerset (Home)

November 23rd - East Wales (Away)

December 13th - Wiltshire (Away)

January 3rd 2009 - Devon (Home)

February 7th - Avon (Away)

April 4th - Dorset (Home)

May 9th - Cornwall (in Exeter as usual)

The meeting left the question of whether the A team should be 4 or 8 players a bit in the air as far as I was concerned leaving it optional between the team captains. I suggest we consider that our A team matches will be using only 4 players. Closer to next season, I will ask the squad for their availability on the above so that we can all get our own playing dates in our diaries. For the moment, can I thank everyone who has given me support during last season

## Calendar

Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> Sept	7pm	COUNTY AGM	Ledbury
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> Sept	7pm	Next Step Pairs	Bartestree
ENTRIES REQ'D NOW	4/5 Sessions	CLUB TEAMS OF 4	Ledbury
ENTRIES REQ'D NOW		In-house League	To Mike Ralph 01531 633180
ENTRIES REQ'D NOW		In-house K O	To Mike Ralph 01531 633180
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	DRAW	Draw and In-house K O 1 <sup>st</sup> Round	Ledbury

**News by e mail(Word)/ letters to the editor, 62 Huntsmans Drive, Kings Acre,  
Hereford HR4 0PN. 01432 354012 by 31/08/08 for the SEPT Issue**

email: [stephen\\_booth@hotmail.com](mailto:stephen_booth@hotmail.com)

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 87&88

Herefordshire Bridge Association

Editor: Stephen Booth (01432 354012)

MAY/JULY 2008

This is a two-in-one bumper edition containing the results of a very successful summer by many Herefordshire players and the 'final' outcome of the EBU proposals. Interesting hands, with stories and anecdotes, hardly ever arrive at this 'address' but English Bridge is full of these items + Shakespeare, which presumably you read and enjoy? What about sharing some of your good, bad and funny moments in these pages?

Editor

## Chairman's Chat

Summer traditionally brings County activities to a close until the autumn restart. This is not to say that past weeks have not been eventful. Foremost perhaps has been our decision, following extensive consultation with our affiliated clubs, to cast our votes in favour of the EBU's strategy proposals at the Extraordinary General Meeting in early June. At the same time we recorded our concerns about the EBU's ability to administer the new systems successfully, and about the accuracy of the financial projections central to their calculations.

In earlier editions of the Newsletter we have explained why we have found it necessary to replace our Open Teams event with a new teams competition run jointly with neighbouring counties entitled the Midland Teams Challenge Bowl. Hosted by rota, the HBA ran the inaugural event at Tarrington last month and the result is reported elsewhere in this issue. Another highlight has been the third Green Point Congress run jointly with Gloucestershire at Ross. Thanks to a great deal of hard work contributed by our noble volunteers, and to the enthusiastic response of players, both these events have been successful and enjoyable.

With the arrival of high Summer and the holiday season our attention is now turning to plans for next year. These are well in hand and should be available to members and clubs by September. Allow me to finish with this verse shared with me by one of the Staffordshire players at the Midland Teams event:

There was once a member from Stoke  
Who said that my bridge is a joke.  
When discarding for a spade  
(thinking he has got it made)  
he said: 'all you can do is revoke !'

**The EBU shareholders voted in favour of the principle of "Pay-to-Play".**

In favour 52, not in fav 31, abstentions 2, not present 1. Following our consultation with clubs and the views of the HBA Committee, the two Herefordshire shares voted "Yes" but we are under instructions to express our strong reservations to the management.

The EBU management will now set up a Project Group to get down to details and a Club Committee to ensure close involvement of the clubs with the implementation. The number of "nos" is a matter of concern for them as several counties reported a likely high drop-out of clubs from affiliation leading them to reject the principle.

## Congratulations

Ben & Tom Paske have been chosen to play for the England Under 21's at the Beijing World Games in October. Part of their training programme is for the team to participate in National competitions. To this end, Ben and Tom Paske were in the winning **Team** from 51 teams at the recent Riviera Congress held in Torquay playing with Michael Bell and Ed Jones. In the **Pairs** in a field of 113, Ben was 4th playing with Michael Bell and Tom was 28th playing with Ed Jones. Another set of tremendous results.

Our County Youth Officer, Martyn Moxley, will require help from us all, if we are to continue to live up to the standards they have set.

## HEREFORDSHIRE HOSTS NEW INTER-COUNTY TEAMS EVENT

*In recent years, 6 counties in the Midlands have all experienced poor entries for their own annual invitation teams events. They therefore decided to pool their efforts into a revived Midland Teams Challenge Bowl annual joint event, with each county hosting the event in rotation. It fell to Herefordshire to be hosts this year; each of the 6 counties entered 2 teams and 2 neighbouring counties responded to our invitation to enter. These, together with 4 Herefordshire Club teams, made up the 18 teams who competed over 51 boards. The standard was very high - the Tarrington Village Hall is unlikely to have welcomed so many Grand Masters before!*

*The winners were one of the Warwickshire teams (Darren Evetts, Susan Stockdale, Tony Poole and John Robbins) with a Herefordshire team (Richard Croot, Tony Truluck, George Barrett & John Griffiths) second*

*and a Derbyshire team (Jennifer & Roger Floutier, Sandra & Arnold Chandler) third. The best result by a Herefordshire Club team was that of the Hereford Bridge Club (Sarah Mathews, Peter Watts, Robin Lewis & Paul Smith) who finished 7th. These counties will meet again in a similar Pairs event later this year.*

*Well done to Mike Ralph and John Thacker who finished 5th in the Corwen Trophy. And to Carol and Albert Brown, playing with Ian Plewis and David Schiff, who finished 6th in the Swiss Teams competition at the Cheltenham Congress.*

*The Green Point weekend, jointly run by the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Bridge Associations, was again held at Ross-on-Wye, attracting a similar level of entries as in recent years - 96 for the Swiss Pairs and 47 for the Swiss Teams. In the Pairs, the Northants pair of Jim Bainbridge and John Larkin shared first place with Lindsay Geddes and Wendy Angseesing from Gloucestershire; Janet Holder and June Homes were the highest placed Herefordshire pair at equal 4th. The team of Cathy Smith, Andrew Smith, Ralph Smith and Steve Tomlinson from Avon won the Swiss teams; best Herefordshire result was the 12th place of Carol and Albert Brown, Pat Jenkins and Bob Underhill.*

## LAWS OF BRIDGE REVISED

***From August 1st, the new laws of bridge, developed by the World governing body and adopted by the EBU, will apply. Clubs will shortly receive a free copy of these (courtesy of the EBU) and Club Directors will need to familiarise themselves with the changes. There is a short summary of key points on the EBU website. The HBA is considering whether we need a session for Club Directors to catch up on the changes - in any case the EBU will be running such seminars later in the year.***

## John Cattnach RIP

John was running Bridge in Schools in Worcestershire when I was doing the same in Herefordshire in the early 90's. John went on to be Area Organiser and helped me here and promoted many County Events for youngsters. In his own County, his enthusiasm led him to be instrumental in promoting many competitions for new players and he made the front cover of English Bridge by playing in the main street of Worcester.

He will be greatly missed.

Editor