

Closely following, our Western League season begins with home matches for our A,B & C sides against Somerset. The County Squad has a few new faces and one or two changes in pairings, and competition for places does appear stronger, and in particular choosing the team for our premier event, the Tollemache Trophy in November will be very interesting.

Peter Watts

## Competitions

As part of their preparation for their trip to Beijing at the end of September, where they will be representing England U-28, Ben and Tom Paske played in several events at Brighton and were victorious in the mid-week Knock-Out event teaming up with other U-28 team members. Congratulations and wishing them every success as they meet other talented young world-wide bridge players.

For the home birds, please get your entries in early for the pre Christmas competitions listed below -

## Calendar

Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> Sept	7pm	COUNTY AGM	Ledbury
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> Sept	7pm	Next Step Pairs	Bartestree
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	7pm	Draw and In-house K O 1 <sup>st</sup> Round	Ledbury
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	10.30am	Avocet Teams	Tarrington
Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	2pm 2pm	Ladies' Pairs Mens' Pairs	Tarrington
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	7pm	Club Teams of 4 -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 31/10/08 for the NOV 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 90

Herefordshire Bridge Association

Editor: Stephen Booth (01432 354012)

SEPTEMBER 2008

As you will know, the Chairman has been trying very hard to awaken the sleepy recesses of the Herefordshire Bridge World - and continues below – even to the extent of asking Tony Forrester to submit an article or two! Tony writes in *The Daily Telegraph* every day, much to my enjoyment.

Some success is an Assistant Editor, Judy Mabe, who plays her bridge at The Birches & Much Marcle. Judy will focus on liaising with Club reps to report events, stories, features and happenings at Club level and encourage members to express their views for publication. Welcome and good luck to Judy.

The P2P saga still goes on – see later – and *English Bridge's* articles under 'The Debate' give plenty of opportunity to respond. So 'Awake, thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light'. Eph. V. v14 – unless you wish to discuss this Charles Wesley sermon, preached on Sunday, April 4, 1742, before the University of Oxford, then let me know? Editor

## Chairman's Chat

As I pondered about writing this contribution I had a vision, a sort of idealistic dream.

I wondered how it would be if, at each of our Clubs, there was one member who could be relied upon to feed news of Club happenings to our Editor?

And how would it be if, at each of our Clubs, there was one member who had taken on the challenge to work with our Youth Development man, Martyn Moxley, in helping to further training initiatives at local schools ?

And how would it be if each of our Clubs appointed a Team Captain whose role was to energise members into entering County competitions representing themselves, the Club or both?

Am I fantasizing or can any of this really happen?

Tony Shadforth

## *They think it's all over*

In the August Issue of MR BRIDGE\*, Sandra Landy, of *Bridge for All* fame, makes an impassioned appeal for the EBU not to rush into Pay to Play (P2P) in an article headed 'It is not too late'. She makes a number of points

- The single P2P revenue replaces two income sources – Member Subscriptions (nearly 50% pay by DD) and Masterpoints – which are steady & secure.
- Every County believes that many smaller & social Clubs would leave the Union
- Many smaller Clubs are started by Teachers and their Masterpoints are significant to them. P2P makes these Clubs more expensive and complicated to run
- Bridge players are cunning people. Players whose Club disaffiliate can join an affiliated Club and can play there just once a year, thus becoming EBU members, getting both the magazine and the right to play in EBU competitions very cheaply. Similarly Clubs can split into two, one affiliated & one not, so P2P will only be paid on some sessions!

She thinks the EBU should address its failings and make the Union important and relevant to the wider bridge-playing public. "I hope every player will tell their club and county to vote against the scheme when a formal vote is taken to change the bye-laws next year"

The Vote? In favour 52, not in favour 31, abstentions 2, not present 1. The two Herefordshire shares voted "Yes" to the principle of the proposals but we are under instructions to express our strong reservations to the EBU on the financial assumptions made and their ability to implement the administrative changes.

What are your views? Have they changed? Let us know your thoughts.

\*MR BRIDGE can be obtained by supplying your Dr/Mr/Mrs/Miss NAME, ADDRESS & POSTCODE to

*Mr Bridge*, Ryden Grange, Knaphill, Surrey, GU21 2TH.

They will also replace your old *Duplicate Bridge Rules Simplified*, if you have one, by sending half of your old copy + seven first-class stamps to the same address. The offer closes on 30<sup>th</sup> September. Hurry!

## Interesting Hand

Peter Watts

Sometimes at our clubs, hands can be fairly mundane and it is often because when we shuffle the cards, we don't get the randomness that can be achieved with duplimated hands. However, it is noticeable that for short time after Simultaneous evenings, the hands be more variable. Such was the case at Hereford after the last Sims event when the following hand appeared: -

North	♠QJxxx	♥Kxxx	♦xx	♣xxx
East	♠10xxx	♥QJ10xxx	♦A	♣Q9
South	♠AKxx	♥Axxx	♦QJxxx	♣void.
West	♠void	♥void	♦K10xxx	♣AKJ10xxxx

East opened		pass,	1♠,	2NT (unusual)
	3♠,	pass,	4♠,	5♣
	5♠,	pass,	pass,	6♣
	Dbl,	pass	pass,	pass

North lead a spade, which West ruffed, who then cashed DA in East and after a series of ruffs before clearing trumps and retaining KD in hand, made 12 tricks with 10 club tricks and 2 diamond tricks, just losing the 5<sup>th</sup> diamond at the end. Apart from bidding aspects, which are not covered in detail here, the hand offers some interesting playing points. As you may note, the contract fails on a trump lead, which should always be a consideration when making an opening lead. Do you do this? Declarer also fails if trumps are cleared before ruffing two diamond losers. Do you make full use of your ruffing values when playing contracts? (Don't always be too keen to play trumps.)

## County Matters

The County took part in the President's Cup again this year and finished a creditable 4<sup>th</sup> of 9 counties behind Lancashire, Merseyside and Manchester, a significant improvement from 2007, when we finished in joint last place. The week-end included a big win against the strong Yorkshire side.

The new County season begins with a Midland Pairs event to be held in Stafford on September 21<sup>st</sup>, the County will have 4 pairs competing, which is a follow-up to the teams event, which we hosted in June.