

County Matters

The County opened the season with matches against Somerset, with a pleasing A team win by 18-2 but large defeats for B and C teams by 2-18 and 1-19 resp., which was disappointing. The next games are against East Wales in November closely followed by the Tollemache Trophy. The County Squad has seen the introduction of two new players.

Outside County matches, the Paske brothers, Ben and Tom, have excelled in the Beijing Mind Games and after finishing top of the Round-Robin phase of the Tournament of the U-21 event, they played major parts in the team reaching the final, where they lost narrowly in an exciting contest with France. They would seem to have all the potential to reach the highest level of this game of bridge, and we look forward to witnessing their progress in the years to come. They have also been playing in the England Premier League which includes all the top ranked players in the country. Whereas their team finished 13th of 16 in the League, it again demonstrates that they are rising quickly in the English ranking system.

Calendar

Friday 14 th November	7pm	Club Teams of 4 -1 st Round	Ledbury
Friday 16 th January	7pm	Nat Pairs Qual	Bartestree
Friday 23 rd January	7pm	Club Teams of 4- 2ndRound	Ledbury
Friday 30 th January	7pm	No Fear Teams	Bartestree
Sunday 1 st February	10.30am	Swiss Pairs	Tarrington
Friday 20 th February	7pm	Mixed Pairs	Bartestree

News by e mail(Word)/ letters to the editor, 62 Huntsmans Drive, Kings Acre, Hereford HR4 0PN. 01432 354012 by 31/12/08 for the NOV 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 91

Herefordshire Bridge Association

Editor: Stephen Booth (01432 354012)

NOVEMBER 2008

My inclusion of the P2P 'alternative view' from Sandra Landy in MR BRIDGE, under *They think it's all over* (last issue), apparently caused a stir in Herefordshire and beyond, even to the extent of the *English Bridge* editor, Elena Jeronimidis, commenting on the article. Apparently, if you have any comments on this subject you should e mail / write to the EBU directly (not your MP).

Another hot subject is the 'quality' of this Newsletter. Don't worry I can take the flack. It is, by any standards, fairly basic, but it's as much as my enthusiasm will allow. Tying me to new content, layout and a timetable will dampen my ardour and Issue 1 may never emerge. I've just been on the EBU website to look at CLUB FOCUS for November, the Newsletter for Clubs and well worth a read – its four pages may be worth referencing on our website? It has a joke about some chess players attending a competition and discussing tactics in the lobby – for some time. The manager finally came to move them on saying he couldn't stand 'chess-nuts boasting in an open foyer'. Great stuff.

Another free website is Bridge Base Online. Type BBO into Google and get registered. You can play or not, watch vugraph matches, look up the Library for past events & matches or access Training Sessions. Well worth a look.

Finally - County Competitions are too expensive?! Would you have entered the Ladies & Gents Pairs competition if the cost was £5 not £10 – with competitors supplying their own refreshments? If cost is a factor, please tell your Cty Rep

Chairman's Chat

Some of us have recently been basking in the reflected glory of the Paske brothers' success in Beijing, where they won a Silver Medal. It was certainly a wonderful achievement, reflecting credit not only on Ben and Tom, but also on Richard Croot, who was their bridge teacher at Hereford Cathedral School.

In truth though, don't most of us do too little to proselytize our wonderful game? Its future as a rejuvenating and socializing activity, that is both competitive and recreational, lies more than anything else in the work of bridge teachers.

One of the strongest centres of teaching activity in our County in recent years has been provided by Sarah Mathews, with her combination of tuition classes and Playing sessions at the Birches Club at Much Birch. The late Barbara Forryan provided a similar resource at The Marches Bridge For All Club, and this tradition has been continued at Bartestree by Maggie Eaton, who in the past has run a student group on Wednesdays in the winter months. Maggie and the Club are to re-start this tuition in the New Year.

Likewise, in January next year Geoff Cole is hoping to start a student group at Hampton Bishop, prior to the Fownhope Club's Wednesday sessions. Another registered teacher who has taught bridge in the Ross area for many years is Peter Aston. At a different level Martyn Moxley is now working to encourage the learning and playing of bridge at our schools and he has recently started a group at the John Masfield High School in Ledbury.

From the above account you may conclude that there is no shortage of bridge teaching. There certainly is the capacity to provide tuition, often associated with our Clubs, but we really do need to attract more students. Clubs and individual teachers must promote and advertise themselves, but word of mouth and personal recommendation are also critical to success. Who is there in your own circle of friends and acquaintances who you believe would enjoy being introduced to this wonderful game ?

Tony Shadforth

Footnote. Tom Paske (South) and his partner Ed Jones had a traumatic experience in the third session, of four, in the Beijing Final v France, when they scored up.

Tom got into the action with 2♠ after East had opened 2♦. The bidding went 2♦, 2♠, 3♣, 4♠
6♥, Pass, 7♥, ??.

The 2♦ was presumably Game Forcing and the 3♣ showed the ♣Ace. Unfortunately Ed held the ♠Ace, and after the 'free bid' to 7♥, was convinced (and me), that West had no spades. Ed duly sacrificed in 7♠. West was convinced that East was void and went for the Grand Slam. The ♠Ace took the first trick and twelve tricks made – as in the other room. England lost 7 imps on the board, but could have gained 17 = 24 imp swing.

Mistakes sometimes go unpunished. Avoiding the 'last guess' is important.

Interesting Hand

Editor

In the Avocet Teams, my partner and I 'wandered' into 5♦ (as you do), holding

North	♠ xx	♥ AK10	♦ Axxx	♣ xxxxx
South	♠ AKJ	♥ xx	♦ QJ109x	♣ xxx

declared by South (me), which West doubled – her partner having bid Hearts. West leads the ♣K and I await my fate. East, however, overtakes with the Ace and fires back a Spade. Is there any hope?

You win with the ♠Ace, draw trumps in two rounds (picking up West's King) and play ♠King & ruff the Jack. Now you play ♥Ace, King, 10 AND?? East has just plonked her ♥Queen on it and you THROW A CLUB – guessing that the ♣Ace was a singleton – your only hope! East is now end-played with her Hearts and concedes a ruff & discard (your third club). The full deal is -

West	♠ Q109xx	♥ xxx	♦ Kx	♣ KQJ10
East	♠ xxx	♥ QJxxxxx	♦ xx	♣ A

I wish I had thought of that at the time and not during the next hand!
- Take your time, thinking about all the alternatives & never give up.
- Don't Double for only one off – it could be costly.

Congratulations to the Avocet Team Winners – Ben Britton, George Richardson, John Thacker and Cathy England.
The Ladies Pairs winners : Jutta Shadforth & Heather Brace
The Gents Pairs winners : Chris Chowney & Steve Booth

Special People

Sue Munday has decided to call it a day for County Directing. Her 17 years of commitment and enthusiasm have been a major contribution in Herefordshire moving forward. She has been a real friend of County Bridge.

Ann Williams, who passed away recently, was involved in the organisation of several clubs and scored for a number, including Much Marcle Bridge Club, the Marches and the Ledbury Monday Afternoon Club, where she was also their Sec. A lively, generous and capable person she will be greatly missed. RIP