

## County Matters – Peter Watts

The County has continued a somewhat roller-coaster season with Western League defeats across the board against East Wales and Avon, but with 2 wins and a draw against Wiltshire. The A team however still have an outside chance of a good finishing position if big wins are achieved in the remaining matches against Devon, Dorset and Cornwall.. The County Squad is pleased to welcome Jennifer Baker into its ranks after several good performances in County events and other competitions over the last year. We need to maintain competition for places and it is highly probable that some newer partnerships will be tried out soon.

**Congratulations** to all our County Competition winners, plus Robin Lewis and Paul Smith who were 4<sup>th</sup> in the Midland Congress Pairs in a strong field in early January, the best by a Herefordshire pair for several years. Ben & Tom Paske continue to represent England Junior teams and were part of the team that finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in Division Two of the Premier League, ahead of some very prominent senior Internationals.

## Calendar

Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	7pm	Club Teams of 4 -3rd Round	Ledbury
Sat 28 <sup>th</sup> March	10.30am	Championship Pairs	Tarrington
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> April	7pm	Ace of Spades	Ross
Sat 18 <sup>th</sup> April	2pm	Multiple Teams of 4	Tarrington
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> April	7pm	Club Teams of 4 -4th Round	Ledbury
Sat/Sun 20/21 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 28/04/09 for the MAY 09 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 93      Herefordshire Bridge Association      Editor: Stephen Booth (01432 354012)

MARCH 2009

## Chairman's Chat from Tony Shadforth

At a club duplicate session the other day, I sat chatting to the Director as members were arriving. Our discussion turned to the current debate over the EBU's P2P proposals. We questioned whether opposing views might lead members and non-members alike to demand that their clubs disaffiliate – unlikely, we concluded.

“If it were to happen”, my companion remarked, “and this resulted in the plan failing, that would spell the end of duplicate bridge in England. You could then go down to your local toy shop and buy a bridge game in a Waddington box packaged like Monopoly or Trivial Pursuits !”

Perhaps this scenario sounds a shade fanciful, but any responsible Club or opinion leader recommending opposing the EBU plans must be very clear about the ***alternative*** being advocated. Anyway I repaired to my table, my mind awash with speculative thoughts, and I nearly revoked as we played the first hand.

## Membership News – Pat Jenkins

With the EBU plans for universal membership well under way, we embark upon the final year of subscription collection in its current form on 1<sup>st</sup> April – renewal notices were distributed with the February edition of English Bridge. From April 2010, providing you are a playing member of an affiliated club, your subs will be collected via the Pay-to-Play scheme as a top-up to your table money.

### Members £ subscription for 2009/2010

Full	21.50 (3.50 County + 18.00 EBU)
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Junior (U 25 on 01/01/09) 5.00

Junior (U 17 on 01/01/09) 2.00

Clubs	34.50 (14.00 County + 20.50 EBU)
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Dual (full member of another county) 4.00



Members who currently pay by direct debit will have their subscriptions collected on or about 1<sup>st</sup> April in the usual way. It would be most helpful if cash payers would send their payments direct to English Bridge Union, Broadfields, Bicester Road, Aylesbury, HP19 3BG making cheques payable to EBU. If you have any queries do please get in touch with me or your club representative – we will help in any way we can. PJ

**Training**, like reading books, is essential if we are to maintain and improve the standard of our Bridge in our Clubs & County. Although we have a regular County Training evening once a month, is there a need for Clubs to get involved and provide their members with this additional service? I have looked on websites, where available, and have found – Fownhope BC are initiating a ‘beginners’ course at a small charge (to cover the cost of the room). Ring Geoff Cole on 01432 340393. The Marches BC at Bartestree provide ‘beginners’ classes on Weds @ 7pm and ‘Refresher Classes’ on selected dates on Fridays @ 11am. Ring 01568 797232 or 01432 275565.

Martin Moxley, our CYO, writes “I have a group of young players whom I have been meeting every lunchtime since October at the John Masefield.”

Sarah Mathews writes “I run my usual beginners classes and also do improvers. As it is very labour intensive, I do like to have no less than four people at a time. At the moment I am teaching beginners on Monday mornings and usually Wednesday evenings. They are 12 weeks into the course and getting quite competent. I normally start beginners in September. Lessons are here at Folly Cottage and last 2+ hours. Mornings start at 10.00am and evenings at 7.00pm. I have a website at the EBU.

Last September I ran a 10 week improvers’ course on Tuesday mornings and evenings and could do the same but on Tuesday mornings and Wednesday evenings. Students are encouraged to play at The Birches from quite early on in their course, but play at their own table until they are ready to move into the normal duplicate.” Contact Sarah on 01981 540274, if interested.

### **Opening Bid? Singleton? Splinter?? Blackwood??? Help!!!!**

Here’s a hand where I berated my partner (except that wives are apt to cut up rough being berated, so I would say we had a fruitful on-going discussion), but afterwards when I showed it to some of my favourite experts there were as many opinions as experts (rather like economists, they say). G Richardson

QJ86	AK1092
A10742	K86
--	1086
K987	A4

Partner (dealer, West) passed (should she?) and I opened 1Sp.LHO came in with 2 Dia and Partner woke up, and said 4NT (std Blackwood). Hearing about my two Aces she bottled it and bid only 5 Spades. 12 tricks duly rolled in. Surely she should take me for the two black Aces after that 2Dia overcall, BUT ... should she have opened, made a splinter bid of 4 Dia (showing at most a singleton, but not the vital void)? Who, if anyone, should have got more active?

*With a void, cue bid your controls – don’t use Blackwood - so  
Pass, Pass, 1Sp, 2Dia,  
4Dia, Pass, 5Cl, Pass (the 4Dia must show 1<sup>st</sup> round control so)  
5Hts, Pass, 6Sp. (accept the Slam invite with all pts working)  
Any other offers? Editor*

### Report

In the County matches against Avon, we unusually had duplimated boards (usually they are hand dealt) and the machine produced several interesting boards, which made for some exciting bridge. On one hand, Herefordshire had bid a perhaps speculative slam, which needed some careful play. It also emphasised a well known maxim, that if there is only one way to make a contract, go for it, even though failure may mean loss of imps in teams and a poor score in pairs.

North: - 5 3,	9 6,	10 8 7 5 4,	K 5 4 3
East: - A J 10 9,	Q J 8 5 3 2,	6,	A 10
South: - 7 2,	K 10 7,	A K J 8,	J 8 7 2
West: - K Q 8 6 4,	A 4,	Q 9 2,	Q 9 6

The E/W partnership reached 6S using a 2 over 1 system, with East bidding 2H over West’s 1S opening, choosing this rather than the available 4D splinter. This enabled some key cue bids to be made before reaching the final contract. In the play, declarer was able to clear trumps in two rounds ending in the East hand and saw that he needed to pin the KH to make his contract. South dutifully covered the QH, West returned a heart won by East’s Jack and a third round ruffed by West cleared the suit. This left 3 hearts available to discard the losing cards in West’s hand to gain a useful 13imps for the team. Peter Watts