

# HEREFORDSHIRE BRIDGE

Newsletter No. 95

Herefordshire Bridge Association  
September Editor Sarah Mathews

September 2009

## Chairman's Chat

Dear Reader,

This issue of the HBA Newsletter marks quite a break from the past. Over the next 12 months the Newsletter will be produced quarterly, each issue edited in turn by a guest Editor. Our guest Editors will adopt the format of their choice, and content will naturally reflect their preferences. I shall look forward to a stimulating variety of styles. Our budget still restricts us to electronic circulation but with an ever-increasing listing of email addresses we hope to reach many more readers.

I am delighted that Sarah Mathews has agreed to act as the pioneer of this approach. Sarah's experience of tournament play, of directing, of teaching bridge, and of club development give her a wide grasp of the bridge scene.

The passage of the last 3 months has seen the single most important development concerning EBU membership ever experienced in our County. All the eleven currently affiliated clubs with the possible exception of the Ledbury Monday Club, which meets only in the winter months, have agreed to the EBU's P2P proposals. So come April, 2010, when these proposals come into force, all the members of each of these clubs will also be EBU members, and of course HBA members.

I think this is important and greatly to be welcomed, because it will mean that your County Association will represent and work for all the members of all these clubs. A large increase in the number of players eligible for County events must surely have some impact. Entries may become more diverse and

## CALENDAR 2009

<b>18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER (Friday)</b>	K/O Draw & 1 <sup>st</sup> Round	<b>Ledbury</b>	7.00pm.
<b>26<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER (Sat.)</b>	Avocet Teams	<b>Tarrington</b>	10.30am.
<b>ADVANCE NOTICES</b>			
<b>16<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER (Friday)</b>	Interclub Teams (1)	<b>Ledbury</b>	7.00pm.
<b>24<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER (Sat.) –</b>	Ladies/Men's Pairs	<b>Tarrington</b>	2.00pm.
<b>13<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER (Friday)</b>	Interclub Teams (2)	<b>Ledbury</b>	7.00pm.
<b>20<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER (Friday)</b>	Next Step Pairs	<b>Bartestree VH</b>	7.00pm.

perhaps more numerous, and this could have implications for the types of events we offer.

All this lies in the future. September finds us at the outset of another season of competitive bridge playing at our clubs, at County level, and beyond. Currently and over these past few weeks, we have been as active and industrious as possible in disseminating the many opportunities that our programme provides for every level of inclination and expertise. You can enter an event representing your club or yourself; you can play in a team or as a pair; you can enter events playing in the homes of players or at established venues in the County. All the necessary information is available from your Club Secretary or from the County website.

So best wishes for the season and perhaps we shall meet over the green baize. I shall be trying my hand again, and, if you get my meaning, I can only do better.

*Tony Shadforth*

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

## Recent Promotions

\*\*\*Premier Regional Master

**Neville Shorrick**

\*\*\*\*\*Regional Master

**Margaret Newcombe**

\*\*Regional Master

**Lin Bennett & Cathy England**

\*\*\* Master

**Brian Meadows**

\*\* Master

**Jennifer Berrington**

\*Master

**Richard Berrington, Ken Readings, & Peter Timms**

Advanced Master

**Joan Walters**

Master

**Dr. Barry Taylor & Tony Teale**

County Master

**Tony Shadforth**

District Master

**Peter Flagg & Jackie Knipe**

Local Master

**Mike Wilkins**

Congratulations to you all. ☺

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

## 'The Hold Up'

We are all familiar with holding up our Ace until the third round, when having Axx, in order to cut off the communication between the defenders and starve the holder of the 5-card suit from making four tricks. What about the following?

You, as West, are in 3NT

**West**

♠ K1076

♥ QJ10x

♦ Kx x

♣ Kx

**East**

♠ 5

♥ Kxx

♦ AQJ10

♣ A109 x x

North leads ♠4, indicating he may have five or even six Spades.

South plays the ♠J and you?

**HOLD UP!**

South next plays the ♠Q and you?

**HOLD UP!**

These may be South's only Spades, but you are not worried as you don't mind which suit comes next. You only have to get the ♥A played and your 9 tricks are safe.

However, South next plays another Spade. North takes his Ace and clears the suit. If he has the ♥A you are always one down. If we cover the ♠Q or ♠J prematurely and South has the ♥A we also go down. Thankfully we have held up. South has the ♥A but no more spades to return so we make our 3NT.

Read the Chapter on 'Hold Up' in any good Bridge book, to understand all the situations and reasons, and HOLD UP with confidence.

*Dick Turpin!*

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

## Re-Evaluation During Bidding

In my last article we saw how to calculate your critical hand evaluation by its True Point Count (TPC) potential rather than by simplistic High Card Points (HCP).

We will now consider the constant review of TPC in the context of the bidding. Let us look at some examples:

Your Hand    ♠ A Q 10 8 4  
                  ♥ K J 10 5  
                  ♦ 8  
                  ♣ 10 9 6

### Auction A

You	LHO	Partner	RHO
1♠	2♣	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	All Pass

### Auction B

1♠	2♣	2♥	3♣
4♥	All Pass		

You have 10Hcp but the TPC is about 13 due to the good shape, honours located in the long suits and good intermediates.

Auction A starts badly. With 3 small cards in opponents' overcalled suit and a singleton in partner's best suit, the TPC has dropped back to 11.

You complete the description of your hand with 2♥ and Partner shows preference for spades to close the Auction. But what a difference in Auction B - you find a big fit in hearts and opponents have a fit in clubs which turns your 3 clubs into an asset as partner is now marked with club shortage. The TPC of your hand has risen to at least 16 due to the 4<sup>th</sup> heart and the diamond singleton.

The point of the hand is to show how your TPC swung from 11 – 16 depending on the bidding.

Remember this hand from my last article?

♠ Q J  
♥ K 9 7 3  
♦ Q 8 4 2  
♣ K J 7

A TPC of 10 due to the poor location of honours, makes this hand not worth an opening 1NT. However things can change.

You	LHO	Partner	RHO
Pass	Pass	1♠	2♣

The TPC swung from 10 to 13 due to the bidding.

The important point of both my articles is to encourage a more flexible evaluation of your hand. By all means start with HCP but make the appropriate adjustments and continue to do so as the bidding develops.

One last thing, if in doubt upgrade your hand, bold bidding wins!

*John Thacker*

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

## 70% Club

**Dorothy & Joe Gutkin** from Bromyard Club had 70% in the club result of the Simultaneous Pairs played on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September.

**Chris Chowney & Sue Shore** scored 72.01% on 7th September at Ross-on-Wye.

And from The Birches, **Gerry & Joan Crisp** scored 70% at the Wednesday club earlier this month and **Hilary Thompson & Anna Russell** scored 70.83% at the Thursday Club in July.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

## Interesting Deals

What would you open as East with a ten card suit and 14 points?

North	West	East (Dealer)	South
♠ 743	♠ 10985	♠ QJ	♠ AK62
♥ 4	♥ ---	♥ AKQJ1087652	♥ 93
♦ KQJ 63	♦ A109854	♦ ---	♦ 72
♣ Q764	♣ K19	♣ J	♣ A8532

Some of our players managed to stop in 4♥, but 5♥ and 6♥ were reached; even 7♦ was bid and duly punished - 7 off doubled!

In this next one there is potential for various outcomes.

North (Dealer)	West	East	South
♠ 43	♠ AKQJ162	♠ 7	♠ 985
♥ 4	♥ 8	♥ QJ109	♥ AK76532
♦ AQJ9765432	♦ ---	♦ K108	♦ ---
♣ ---	♣ AJ875	♣ K6432	♣ Q109

On a 5♦ opening South must not be tempted by their 7-card heart suit headed by the AK. Though West might well overcall Spades, does East go to 6♠? 3♦\* got West straight into 6♠, making.

*Evie Whitfield*

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

## Something for the Newer Player

There are many people starting bridge lessons now and one of the

aspects of the game which the newer player finds the most difficult to absorb is how important it is for the two defenders to communicate with each other during the play. We can do this very effectively with our cards!

A simple rule of thumb is to give partner Attitude Signals (like/dislike). These are relatively easy to understand. A high card tells partner you like the lead and a low card asks them to 'please switch to another suit'. These signals save the brain a lot of hard labour.

Here is a time honoured example. Partner leads ♥A, promising the ♥K, you hold ♥94 Play the ♥9 to encourage partner to continue. In a trump contract you will be dying to 'ruff' the third round. With ♥Q74, you would also like partner to continue, but with ♥7 5 3 you can tell them you have no help in the suit by playing the lowly ♥3.

Likewise, if you are unable to follow suit when declarer is drawing trumps, play a low card in another suit to tell partner you have nothing of note in it, or, if you can afford it, play a high card in a suit where you have values, asking partner to lead it when they next obtain the lead. The moral here is never to just play the card nearest your thumb! Start thinking along these lines now and it will soon become a very good habit. As you get more experienced, you will agree other defensive signals with your partner and your bridge will improve enormously.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

## Opening Weak Hands

County Training always throws up some interesting hands and, playing only 20 boards, we get time to discuss and mull them over.

You are the Dealer holding:

♠ 10984  
♥ 2  
♦ 8  
♣ AKQ10832

Are you opening with 1♣, which meets the Rule of 19? You can't pre-

empt with 3♣, as, holding four of a major, the 'Golden Rule' says don't (lest Partner has four and you miss the fit).

I passed, which was the consensus of opinion, and after:

Pass	1♥	Pass	Pass
2♣	2♦	Pass	Pass
???			

Double was the agreed bid to get Partner who held:

♠ AQJ5  
♥ 109874  
♦ KJ52  
♣ - - - -

into the action, There was a later opportunity for the 'light openers, holding -

♠ AQ105  
♥ J  
♦ 106  
♣ K987xx

The bidding?

1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦ (4 <sup>th</sup> suit)	Pass
3♣	Pass	6♣	Pass

Gulp (I've shown a weak hand!)

These were the hands -

♠ AQ105	♠ 63
♥ J	♥ AQ1097
♦ 106	♦ AK
♣ K987xx	♣ QJxx

Partner took the early Spade finesse which lost, 1 down.

**If you're going to open 'light' in 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> position, you'll need to be a good card player (or may need a new partner!).**

After a diamond lead and a small club, taken by the singleton Ace, then another diamond, we play small to the ♣K and play ♥J, overtaking with the ♥Q. The ♥A and another heart drops the ♥K, and 'Bob's your Uncle'. If only!

*Steve Booth*

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

## County Matches & News

Western League matches for the season 2009-2010 begin in October with away matches against Somerset to be played in Nailsea, followed by matches against East Wales in

November with the remaining 5 matches being played in 2010. County Training has continued during the Summer months at Putson and some new pairings have been included in the proposed line-ups for teams representing the County in the months ahead.

In a close competition, the County finished 7<sup>th</sup> of the 9 teams taking part in the President's Cup in Spondon, Derbyshire. Significantly the weekend included wins against two of the stronger counties Yorkshire and Merseyside, while a 3<sup>rd</sup> victory was against bottom side North Wales. Paul Smith and Robin Lewis played extremely well on their first appearance at this level and enjoyed a 'Grand Slam' against Paul Hackett, who was playing for Staffordshire.

As always, our players have been taking part in other events on the Bridge Calendar and it is pleasing to report that both Ben and Tom Paske had victories at the week long prestigious Brighton Tournament, while John Griffiths and Bob Underhill, partnering a pair from Devon, finished 6<sup>th</sup> in the Welsh Foursomes held in Cardiff.

*Peter Watts*

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## A Scorer's Lament

Anonymous pairs are not much fun Especially when it is half-past-one, And lunch should have been upon the table.

Try as I might, I am not able To get the evening's scoring done.

Two thousand and Ten is getting near,

So a resolution for the year Could be to ease the weekly chore Of calculating your personal score By writing the number of your pair.

Computer Scoring is great by the way, You have no idea how much work it saves; But it only requires a little care To record the number of your pair Before you start your evening's



play.

The travellers are my only guide  
As to who you are and with whom  
you side.

So please will you note in a special  
place

Your pair numbers please, no, not  
the date!

And make my job a more pleasant  
ride.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

## ***News of Clubs & Members***

### ***Birches***

The club encourages all beginning players to their Thursday afternoon duplicate sessions (2.00pm. – 5.00pm.). The pace is a bit more gentle and there is also the option to play for just a couple of hours at the Student tables, always with assistance to hand. It is a great opportunity to 'get the cards into your hands' in a friendly and helpful environment. There is a very social tea break at half time with particularly nice biscuits and lots of chat! With winter coming all too soon, an afternoon session is often very welcome to those who would rather not drive in the dark.

The more experienced players are encouraged to increase their skills by playing at other clubs and several have done so. They also support County events and thereby pick up different skills, encouraging them to progress further.

Three seminars a year are delivered on topics of specific interest to the club members. This year we have concentrated on Weak Two bidding with well over 20 members attending the seminars and playing a set of associated boards afterwards to give them practice. This is in addition to the regular lessons given by our resident teacher during the year, after which many of her students join the club and attend one or more of our weekly sessions. Several of last year's intake of students are regularly playing in the main duplicates on both Mondays and Thursdays and two, namely

**Ruth Gibbon & Barbara McIntyre** came top on 17<sup>th</sup> September with 66.67%.

### ***Bromyard***

Congratulations to **Olaf Newcombe** who celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday this month.

### ***Fownhope***

At present Fownhope is thriving as a club with new members joining on almost a weekly basis. In part this is due to the excellent work of Geoff Cole, assisted by Ted Dutton, who, together, have run a 12 week course of bridge lessons, attended by at least 16 people. Several of his trainees are giving our Wednesday night events, held at Hampton Bishop, a try to see how they can cope in a Club situation. The friendly atmosphere and encouragement they receive from members is providing the environment for them to gain confidence and develop their skills.

We have been really pleased to welcome members of other Clubs to our Monday events at the Riverbed in Fownhope, knowing that, once they have experienced the format of the day, they will return. This not only includes a value-for-money lunch provided by an excellent chef and the attention of very friendly staff, but it is also worth noting that, as a general rule, we play a minimum of 32 boards so there is plenty of bridge on offer. We are currently preparing information sheets regarding our Christmas party and, of course, the Swiss Teams in January.

### ***Hereford***

Hereford is proposing to hold a series of seminars on different bridge topics. The purpose is to help members develop their understanding of bridge and to give an added interest to our meetings. We hope too that it will encourage more players to come to the club, and also, perhaps, make a

contribution to improving the standard of bridge in the County.

The seminars will start at 6.45 and last for 20-30 minutes, (depending upon the topic, the tutor and the interest generated) and will be followed by a normal evening of duplicate bridge. On these evenings we will operate a host system so that anyone who comes to a seminar, even on their own, can stay and play bridge afterwards.

There will be three or four seminars per annum, depending on how well the idea is received and we would welcome members of other clubs to attend, if they wish and to stay to play bridge with us afterwards. The first seminar is likely to be in November or December (Watch this space).

### ***Ross-on-Wye***

Congratulations to **Jo & Geoff Baker** who celebrated their Golden Wedding in August. Geoff is our scorer and Jo is a Tournament Director.

There are three people at the **Friday Club**, who come regularly and are over 90. The oldest is 96! Can any other clubs boast members of 90 or more?

On 22<sup>nd</sup> June **The Ripple Trophy**, a new competition where members are randomly paired on the night, was won by **Joan Crisp & Sue Shore** with 64.58%.

In the Simultaneous Pairs in July, **Pat & Mel Phillips** came 60th with a score of 65.78%.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

### ***County AGM***

At the AGM at Putson Village Hall in Hereford on 11<sup>th</sup> September, after the usual proceedings, the most important feature was that for two reasons the EBU required the County to revise its Constitution. The first was because of the forthcoming introduction of P2P in April 2010 and the second because of legal advice regarding the wording of certain clauses. This has now

been done and it has been ratified by the EBU. Copies can be had from Geoff Harrington.

After all the business was completed Dave Weller presented Trophies to this year's winners.

**Ben Britton & Dave Weller** won The National Pairs (No Trophy, just kudos).

**Ace of Spades Trophy** was won by **Richard Manuel & Robin Harvey**.

**Woolhope Cup** (Next Step Pairs) **Jean Porter & Judy Kingston**.

**Lambe Corner Salver** (Ladies Pairs) - **Jutta Shadforth & Heather Brace**.

**Country Gentleman's Association Trophy** (Men's Pairs) **Chris Chowney & Stephen Booth**.

**Ray Paul Memorial Salver** (Mixed Pairs) was won by **Pat Jenkins & Ian Murray-Watson**

**Bulmer's Holdings Rose Bowl** (Swiss Pairs) - **Dave Weller & John Thacker**

**Queenswood Trophy** (No Fear Teams) - **Colin Sandy, Sylvia White & Brian Poole & Neville Shorrick**.

**Sun Valley Rose Bowl** (Multiple Teams) - **Pat Jenkins, Ian Murray-Watson, Peter Watts & Dave Weller**.

**Avocet Pools Cup** (Swiss Teams) - **Ben Britton, George Richardson, John Thacker & Cathy England**.

**Dinedor Shield** (Interclub Teams League) - **Hereford Bridge Club** which also won the **Chadd Shield** (Club Teams Of Eight) and represented the County in the Garden Cities.

**Portman Building Society Trophy** (Div 1 In House League) - **Chris Thomas, Karin Fairweather, John Thacker & Cathy England** who represented the Count in the Pachabo

**League Division 2 Cup** (Div 2 In House League) - **Angela & Mike Lane, Tony Teale & Peter Flagg**.  
**Cotterell Cup** (BfA League) -

**Susan & Gordon Young, Di & Steve Martin**.

**Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society Trophy** (In House KO Teams) **Ben Britton, Chris Chowney, Robin Lewis & Peter Smith**

**HCCBA Teams Knockout Plate** (KO Teams Consolation) - **Sue & Derrick Munday, Graham Ling & Brian Meadows**.

**Inco Alloys Bowl** (Championship Pairs) - **John Thacker & Mike Ralph** who represented the County in the Corwen.

Congratulations to you all. ☺

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## County Knockout - KOKO

There was a busy evening on Friday 18th September at Ledbury where the draw for the County knockout took place. There were ten teams and you can see the results of the evening's matches on the next page. Do consider entering next year. It is an excellent competition and the more teams which enter, the better the competition becomes.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

## Newsletter

Well you have now just about come to the end of the Newsletter. The format is different which might or might not take your fancy. No offence will be taken if it doesn't! I wonder if it would be nice to have other features? What about a correspondence section? Or would a section on tricky rulings be a help? Odd hands which come up in normal duplicates often cause difficulties in the bidding or play, it would be good to share them and learn better ways of dealing with them. The County Newsletter is for you and we would like you to enjoy reading it. So, if you have suggestions regarding its content and layout, please do make them. Ideally we would like to increase the

readership, so the content is important to us. If that is wrong then you won't enjoy reading it and the aim of getting a wider readership will be defeated.

Ed

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

## Items/Copy

Please send copy to John Thacker for the December Newsletter either by email (in word format) to :

[jthacker@gabbs.biz](mailto:jthacker@gabbs.biz)

or post to 19, Southbank Road, Hereford HR1 2TL or

☎ 01432 270486 by

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23<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER

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Do make use of the County Website and make constructive criticisms.

[www.herefordshirebridge.co.uk](http://www.herefordshirebridge.co.uk)

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## And Finally

Two elderly gentlemen were playing Bridge one Saturday evening, as they had done for the past 35 years. Max, the older, often had problems remembering which cards were which, and he usually needed help from his wife.

At the end of the card game, Ed said to Max, "You played really well tonight. You didn't need any help at all. Why was that?"

Max replied, "Ever since my wife sent me to that memory school, I haven't had any problems at all." "Memory school? What memory school?" Ed asked.

Max thought for a moment. "Oh, what's that really pretty flower that's red with thorns?"

"A rose?"

"Yes, that's it!" Max said.

He then turned to his wife and mumbled "Hey, Rose! What's the name of that memory school you sent me to?"

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

## COUNTY KNOCKOUT

First Round			<u>2nd Round</u>	<u>Semi Final</u>	<u>Final</u>
MOXLEY	V	MUNDAY	MOXLEY	.....	
LANE	V	SHADFORTH	LANE		.....
GRIFFITHS	V	WELLER	Bye	GRIFFITHS	
THACKER	V	BENNETT	Bye	THACKER	.....
BRITTON	V	HARRINGTON	Bye	BRITTON	

## PLATE

<u>2<sup>nd</sup> Round</u>	<u>Semi Final</u>	<u>Final</u>
MUNDAY	.....	
SHADFORTH		.....
Bye	WELLER	
Bye	BENNETT	.....
Bye	HARRINGTON	