

# HEREFORDSHIRE BRIDGE

Newsletter No. 96

Herefordshire Bridge Association  
January Editor John Thacker

January 2010

## Chairman's Chat

Dear Reader,

I am now in my last year of office as HBA Chairman, and I am finding that I keep returning to the same questions that have dogged me throughout my spell. It is the issue of our competitions programme and I recall that I banged on about this in the May Newsletter.

When I think about the way bridge is organised under the EBU banner, I visualise a pyramid. Between us - clubs, counties and national level - we have constructed a pyramid of bridge-playing opportunities. All our members are free to play in our County events as well as in their home Clubs. Nor is there any impediment except money preventing us playing in the many regional and even national congresses that populate the diary. Playing ability does kick in when it comes to representative bridge at county and national level; that apart, we have our pyramid.

What I am discovering (painfully) is that most of us are happy to populate the base and are reluctant to climb higher where the view may be better. It is not for me to sit in judgement on the inclinations of others. But I am duty-bound to make every effort to ensure that my fellow bridge players not only know the many and varied bridge playing opportunities available to them, but are also given every facility to take up these options.

This task is by no means mine alone or even mainly mine. Our Events

## CALENDAR 2010

Nat Pairs Qualifier	Fri 15 Jan	7pm	Bartestree
No Fear Teams	Fri 29 Jan	7pm	Bartestree
Swiss Pairs	Sun 31 Jan	10.30am	Tarrington
Interclub Teams 3	Fri 12 Feb	7pm	Ledbury
Mixed Pairs	Fri 19 Feb	7pm	Bartestree
Club Teams of 8	Sat 27 Feb	1 pm	Tarrington
Interclub Teams 4	Fri 19 Mar	7pm	Ledbury
Championship Pairs	Sat 27 Mar	10.30am	Tarrington

Secretary, Sarah Weller, is at the very heart of this effort, and Club Reps are the vital link with members. I have never been a Club Rep but I can only think it is a challenging role. Achieving an adequate hearing at a club session, getting members to listen to you willingly when they are there to play bridge - these typify the challenges. Only when the necessary supportive ethos exists and is owned and claimed by all the officers of the Club, only given these conditions can a Club Rep produce results.

Entries for our County events this year are down on previous years; we have even had to scrap one event. Is this telling me that our message is not getting through, or am I to conclude that the organising of events beyond the club level is irrelevant to the wishes of 70-80% of our members?

But for now the festive season is upon us and my HBA colleagues and I offer Christmas greetings to all our readers.

Tony Shadforth

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## Play Problem

Playing Teams of Four

North

♠AQ108

♥AK54

♦A642

♣8

South

♠KJ97

♥8632

♦7

♣A943

South is declarer in 4S. East/West were silent.

West leads a trump. Plan the play.

For solution, see final page.

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## Recent Promotions

(July 2009 - December 2009)

**Premier Life Master**

Dr M C Ralph

**Premier National Master**

Mrs H Brace

Mr P Watts

**National Master**

Mr C G Chowney

**1 Star Premier Regional Master**

Mr J D Williams

**Premier Regional Master**

Mr T F Paske

Mr T Truluck

**16 Star Regional Master**

Mrs P Jenkins

**2 Star Regional Master**

Mr J D Williams

**5 Star Premier Master**

Mrs K Neale

Mrs P Phillips

**2 Star Premier Master**

Mrs S R Green

**5 Star Master**

Mr MCJ Phillips

**4 Star Master**

Mr M Curtis

**3 Star Master**

Mr D Lait

Mrs A J Lane

Mr J Poole

**1 Star Master**

Mrs J Kingston

**Advanced Master**

Mr G R Baker

Dr B Taylor

**Master**

Mrs A F Caine

Mr RA Caine

Miss J Dowdle

Mrs J King

Mr S R Milnes

Mr B D Poole

**County Master**

Mrs K Cotton

Mrs J Davies-Jones

Mr D J Furnival

Mrs J E Hardy

Mrs D Martin

Mrs J Mullan

**District Master**

Mr S Martin

Mrs E Riddle

Mr A Davis

Dr C Peacock

Mrs J M Pugh

Mrs L C E Shepherd

Mrs E Smith

Mrs J Smith

Mrs CJ Winney

**Area Master**

Mrs C Dixon

Mr G M Green

Mrs C Kinmond

Mrs E Riddle

Mrs L C E Shepherd

Mrs DJ Woods-Humphery

Mr G Young

Mrs S Young

**Club Master**

Mr M L Baker

Mr M L Cornelius

Mr P R Dewhurst

Mrs S M Dewhurst

Mr P Edwards

Mrs A Mayson

Mr M Wilkins

**Local Master**

Mrs M Bellamy

Mrs J Hill

Mr D Kilgour

Miss M Olds

Mr C A Prout

Mr B Rom

Mrs T A Stirrup



## *County Matches & News*

Western League matches for the season 2009-2010 began in September with 2 wins and a last board defeat against Somerset, but disappointingly only 1 draw and 2 defeats against East Wales, where failure to bid a Grand Slam cost Herefordshire dearly, as in close matches the draw and one of the defeats would have become victories. The results leave Herefordshire more or less mid-table in the overall standings. Matches continue in January with matches against Wiltshire closely followed against Avon in February.

In the major Competition of the year, the Tollemache Trophy, which involves all the English and Welsh

Counties, Hereford had its worst result for a few years only recording a single victory against Leicestershire in its 8 matches. Consequently the county were bottom of the Group. Even though the standard of opposition seemed higher this year, the team played well below their usual standard.

On the representative side, Ben Paske, Tom Paske and Alice Kaye, a new addition to the County ranks, have been selected to represent England in the Channel Trophy at under-25 level, which means Herefordshire are providing half the team of 6 players. Alice Kaye has also been selected to take part in the England Ladies trials to represent England in the Milne Cup, the Home Countries championship.

Outside formal county events, Nigel Edmondson, Noel Downes, Ben Britton and Peter Watts finished an excellent 4<sup>th</sup> from 69 teams at the Malvern Congress.



## *Director Calling*

Since I resumed club directing and started at county level, surprisingly the most frequent call to the table has been to adjudicate on a contested claim by declarer.

However obvious the play might appear to you, ALWAYS state the line of play you intend to follow. It is too late to state your intentions after you are challenged, or when the director arrives.

Particular grief occurs when a trump is outstanding. If declarer has made no statement about it, it will be assumed that the trump has been overlooked and if a trick could be lost to that trump by any normal play, the opponents will be awarded the trick and any others that follow from that trick. Please also

remember that any doubtful point will be decided against the claimer.

A footnote to Law 70c(3) describes 'normal' as a play that would be careless or inferior for the class of player involved. The director must use his or her bridge judgment and, dare I say, common sense to decide on an equitable outcome.

One more thing, once a claim or indeed a concession (very rarely contested!) is challenged play must stop and the Director be called.

John Thacker

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## 70% Club

The following 70% results have been spotted or reported since the last newsletter.

Andrew Davis & Peris Edwards scored 76.14% on 19th October at The Birches.

Neville Shorrick and John Crowe scored 75% on 22 September at Bromyard.

Vicki Archard & Rex Shutler scored 72.50% on Friday 20 November at The Marches.

Neville Shorrick & Jennifer Baker scored 72.05% in the Mixed Pairs on Wednesday 18 November at Ledbury.

Janice Brent & Elizabeth Dinnen scored 71.43% on Friday 13 November at The Marches.

Gerry & Joan Crisp scored 71.11% on 15th October at The Birches.

Dennis & Kathy Chapple scored 70.24% on Wednesday 16 December at The Marches.

Having played duplicate for over 30 years, I know how hard it is to achieve 70%. WELL DONE!

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## Lost Opportunity

How well do we understand partnership agreements on Take-Out Doubles, do we have a strong enough system to counter interference from our opponents?

It can be a very wide subject and many books and articles are written on it. In any event, it's well worth improving this part of our games, many imps can be lost in teams and percentage points lost in pairs competitions if we make the wrong decision.

Consider this example at Wyeseide Teams recently with N/S vulnerable, E/W non-vulnerable.

East : - AJxx, QJ10x, AKx, Kx  
West : - Q10xx, Kx, Qxx, AQxx

As dealer, East opens 1D (playing 5-card majors), South overcalls 2H (weak 6-card suit)

With no 5-card suit, West should not bid a suit, 2NT maybe a thought but by far the best makes a Take-Out (Sputnik) Double showing in principle the other two suits and 8+ points.

North passes and over to East, who now knows game points are between the two hands, but do we have other possibilities to game or even slam, we have 4 decent hearts, opposition are vulnerable, plenty of outside strength, what happens if we pass converting the take-out into penalty. N/S go for at least 1100 and on best defence 1400.

Alas in the event E/W bid to game in spades making 11 tricks, on paper the optimum result as North leads a heart and ruffs the return - just +450. However at the other table, E/W somewhat stumble into 6S, N/S fail to find the heart ruff and a slam is made for -980 and 11 imps down. Comparing this to passing the

take-out double at the first table, there would still be a gain of 3imps for +1100 and +9imps for +1400.

As mentioned, there are many different examples of situations such as the above, but the message is keep looking for these opportunities, don't routinely remove a Take-Out Double, something better could be available for your partnership or team.

Peter Watts

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## Balancing Challenge

Be determined never to let the opponents play in a trump fit at the 2 level. If they have a fit, you have a fit. The tool you will frequently use is of course, the take out double.

Both Vul ♠10765  
♥Q1084  
♦A1085  
♣8

1C	P	2C	P
P	?		

Perfect shape to enter with a double, even if vulnerable.

Neither Vul ♠J97  
♥Q65  
♦KJ7  
♣A1093

1H	P	2H	P
P	?		

Poor shape, and you are really hoping that the opponents can be nudged to the 3 level, but you may have to play it! This kind of action is essential in match pointed pairs. Remember - your glass is half full.

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## County Results so far

### Avocet Teams

Bob Underhill, Peter Bellamy  
Geoff & Madeleine Harrington

### Ladies Pairs

June Homes & Janet Holder

### Mens Pairs

John Thacker & Dave Weller



## News of Clubs & Members

### Much Marcle

The club has now moved to Brooms Green Village Hall near Dymock, 3 miles west of Ledbury. They still meet on Fridays from 11.50am till 3.30pm. Ring 01531 670239 for a partner.

The club raised £160 at the Children in Need Simultaneous Pairs in November.

### Ledbury

Ledbury club reports a slight reduction in the number of tables, averaging 12-13 a week. A host system was introduced last May and is proving successful, though only 30% of members are prepared to act as hosts.

### Fownhope

Geoff Cole is well through his second 'Learn to Play Bridge' course and several people from his first course are now attending the club. Fownhope's annual Swiss Teams event will be on 9 January and places are still available.

### Bromyard

Joy and Ray Morgan won the annual Joan Smith Cup on 17 November.

### Hereford

The first seminar, as advertised previously, was held on 8th December 2009.

John Thacker gave an interesting and lively talk entitled 'A Journey around your partner's overcalls'. The receptive audience, comprising solely Hereford Bridge Club members, listened attentively as John provided thought provoking examples to illustrate the main point - that in Pairs bridge the key score is 100/110 (not the dreaded -200). It is better to go one down in a 3 level contract than to allow the opponents to make 2 of a major.

More seminars are planned for later in the year and it is hoped that members of other clubs might feel enticed to come along and then to enjoy some club bridge afterwards.

On October 1<sup>st</sup>, a quarterly Grand Prix competition was started with substantial cash prizes. Grand Prix 1 (October - December 2009) was won jointly by Lin Bennett, Carol Malim and George Richardson. Congratulations to them all.



## Youth Bridge

There is to be a teaching initiative on Friday 19 February at Hereford Cathedral School. Please contact Martyn Moxley for details or to offer any assistance.

## Solution to play problem

This looks, and is, a straight forward cross ruff and approaching it casually there appear to be 7 trump tricks and 4 outside tricks - no problem - remembering to cash outside winners first, you play AC, AD, AH and then KH, but oh no, East trumps the KH and leads another trump. 1 down.

The key here is that you are playing teams. The requirement is to make the contract and not worry about over tricks, so simply cash the 3 Aces and then cross ruff for your 10 tricks.

Full layout

<b>North</b>	
♠AQ108	
♥AK54	
♦A642	
♣8	
<b>West</b>	<b>East (Dealer)</b>
♠64	♠532
♥QJ109	♥7
♦98	♦KQJ1053
♣KJ652	♣Q107
<b>South</b>	
♠KJ97	
♥8632	
♦7	
♣A943	

Based on a problem from Bridge Plus, Feb 2004.



## Items/Copy

Please send copy to Martyn Moxley for the next Newsletter either by email : [marmoxley@waitrose.com](mailto:marmoxley@waitrose.com) or post to : 15 Pound Close, Ledbury, Herefordshire HR8 2SU by 8 March 2010



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

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

