

HEREFORDSHIRE BRIDGE



Newsletter 98 – Editor Evie Whitfield – July 2010

Chairman's Chat – for July 2010

Since I am approaching the end of my term of office as County Chairman, this is my last contribution to the Newsletter in that capacity. So it is an opportunity for me to pay tribute to our Editors, to Steve Booth who produced the Newsletter for many years, and over the past 12 months to the quartet of Sarah Mathews, John Thacker, Martyn Moxley and now Evie Whitfield. I am delighted to report that Martyn's offer to edit the Newsletter henceforward has been accepted with enthusiasm, given the attractive presentation and variety of items in the last issue.

'Pay2Play' is the term that has been used to describe the EBU's plan to bring into membership all the members of affiliated clubs who had previously remained outside the EBU. This change took place in April and in our Herefordshire clubs it seemed to go through smoothly. Club Officers were involved in a lot of work refining and transmitting membership data to the EBU. This has had the effect of increasing membership in the County from around 300 to over 480. Only time will reveal what impact, if any, this increase in numbers will have on participation in our County events.

The County Programme for this coming year is now complete and details will be circulated shortly. There is a big difference this time in the way in which it will be organized. Sarah Weller, our Events Secretary, also completes her term of office next month. Tireless and conscientious to a fault, her contribution has been invaluable. But next year we are handing over this responsibility to our clubs. Broadly speaking, each club will run one of the County events. It is brilliant the way clubs have 'stepped up to the plate' in this fashion and I welcome it for a particular reason. I hope it will encourage club members who have not previously participated to try their hands so to speak.

Our AGM approaches; it will be held on Friday, September 10th. The Ross Club is our host this year so we will be at their venue, the Larruperz Centre. It is the occasion for my fellow officers and me to formally report on our activities over the past year. But it is also an opportunity for me to thank so many people for the contributions they make to bridge playing in our home County, and for trophies to be presented to the winners of this year's events. I extend a cordial invitation to (EBU) readers, indeed all members, to come along, to listen, to contribute, and to enjoy a session of duplicate bridge over the remainder of the evening.

Tony Shadforth

Recent discovery – we have some eminent sports people playing at Ledbury Bridge Club.-



Mark Pharaoh was the British discus champion for many years and represented the country at the 1952 and 1956 Olympic Games.



Neville Shorrick was an international table tennis player.

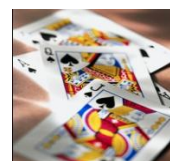


David Magee is currently representing Scotland at croquet.

Are there any other talented people amongst us?



HISTORY OF 7 HEREFORDSHIRE CLUBS



Hereford Bridge Club

In 1962 there was little organised duplicate Bridge played in the county but a group of about thirty, formed from employees of Inco Special Metals, played weekly at the Tabard Inn (now Starbucks) in Hereford High Town. The numbers dwindled, but travelling to other counties became tedious and after failing to form a Business Houses league we opened a club at the company's Holmer House. Cyril Walker and I were the main instigators but relied very much on outside support, principally from Jim Alexander and Peter Bellamy. Facilities were not ideal and problems with the inclusion of non-employees led to us moving into the town where we could attract a wider range of players. The first venue was a disaster – a narrow alcove off the main dining room at the Castle Pool Hotel, cramped and noisy and after only a few weeks we moved to the Farmers' Club where we stayed for many years.

The move to our present venue at Saxon Hall was the culmination of many years of searching for premises with easy access for all. We have kept going for almost 35 years due entirely to the strong support from players throughout the county.

Extracted from Gordon Thornevell's article

Ross on Wye

The Ross on Wye Bridge Club was founded by Douglas Harper in 1987. The first meeting was on 4th May that year, when 35 members met to play Rubber Bridge in the Ross Conservative Club. The annual subscription was £3 and the table money was 30p.

Later in the year, the Club began to play duplicate bridge, became affiliated to the [English Bridge Union](#) and to the newly formed Herefordshire Bridge Association.

The membership continued to grow and the Club began to look for a more suitable venue that could cope with such a large number of players. The Community Association was developing the Larruperz Centre and in June 1990 the Paxton Hall was hired for Mondays and later the Watkins Room for Fridays.

Inevitably, in line with inflation, the Club's subscriptions have increased – now: £5 joining fee, £5 annual subscription and £2 table money. There are now 101 Monday members and additional Friday Members.

Extracted from the narrative on the Club website

Wyeside Bridge Club

The 'Thursday Bridge Club' was originally formed by members of Hereford Bridge Club (HBC) (Ray and Pats Paul and John & Christine Baldwin) to assist rubber bridge players to convert to duplicate bridge. Initially play was at the organisers' homes but as numbers increased it moved to the Farmers' Club. At first the standard of play was relatively poor so bidding and play was discussed. After 2 years standards had improved and many were keen to progress to more formal duplicate but HBC had no space for new members. Therefore, a new Club, Wyeside, was formed, affiliated to the EBU and the County Association, meeting on Thursday evenings, with equipment lent by HBC and a donation of £100 towards a trophy for the Wyeside Championship Pairs. The first AGM was in November 1990.

Over the next 20 years Wyeside have operated in the same premises as HBC with some shared equipment, a large proportion of dual members and friendly rivalry. There is still an awareness of a different ambience – the less experienced player might find the Wyeside Club initially less intimidating but as time goes on the difference is less marked.

Extracted from Geoff Harrington's article

Bromyard Bridge Club

Formed in November 1992, a group, mostly of beginners, met at the Bromyard Centre and played Rubber Bridge on Tuesday evenings. Richard Grantham was the first chairman, succeeded, in January 1993, by Michael Collins; and the first Club AGM, January 1995, was held at The Hop Pole Hotel, where alternate weeks of Rubber and Duplicate were played. The 1997 AGM reports that the Club had joined the EBU and that Duplicate was played every week – several members who preferred Rubber had left – but others had joined and the Club was 'very successful'! In August 1998 the club moved to the Bay Horse (larger premises) and a beginners' class was introduced – run by Warwick Ackland. David Rex has been chairman since 1999. From 2000 we have played at Bromyard Public Hall. *Extracted from David Rex's article*

Fownhope Bridge Club

In 1991 a group of Fownhope friends decided they wished to learn to play bridge. Lessons were arranged in the Village Hall, and to have some practice, they met on Monday afternoons in various houses in the village. Sometime later, Kath Watkins organised Wednesday evenings at the retirement home premises. When, in 1993, Vic Bosson moved to Fownhope, he suggested that this informal club should be put on an official basis and that a Monday venue be arranged at the Green Man Inn. Officials were appointed, Vic became Chairman and the Fownhope Bridge Club became official.

It has two branches – Mondays (at 10.30) and Wednesdays (at 18.45). Although the venues have been changed several times the Club continues to thrive with, currently the largest membership in Herefordshire. For details visit our website on www.bridgewebs.com/fownhope/ Susan Shore

Marches Bridge For All Club

The Marches was founded by Barbara Forryan who taught bridge to beginners at Hereford Technical College and to small groups at her home. The EBU's Bridge for All Programme was used, teaching Basic Acol. Barbara created a new generation of bridge players, the majority were new and some long-lapsed players who had learned older systems. The Club began at the new Bartestree Village Hall, Wednesdays, for "proper" bridge and Fridays for relaxed informal sessions where players could practice between lessons, enjoy a companionable lunch and increase their confidence without too much pressure.


After Barbara's death, her husband, Joe Forryan, most generously donated the club and its equipment to the members and, from 2004, it entered a new phase as a members' club and is now in its seventh year, affiliated to the EBU and running Wednesday evening and Friday daytime sessions. The Barbara Forryan Cup is an event run annually. Some teaching has taken place, though, sadly, potential courses at the Technical College priced themselves out of the market.

Ten years on from the Bridge for All Scheme and with an ageing cohort of players, we wonder when the next generation will appear. Who will follow Barbara Forryan's example? *Extracted from Val Lee's article*

Marcle Bridge Club at Broomsgreen

This is the most recent foundation of Herefordshire's affiliated clubs. Our first game was in November 2007 in Much Marcle Hall. A course of improvers classes were taught by Hilda Seabright assisted by Barbara Ferris. Last year the Club moved to Broomsgreen just 3 miles away from Ledbury where many of our players live. All levels of bidding system are allowed and we think this and the chocolate biscuits have attracted good players from the county and from Worcestershire, Shropshire and Gloucestershire. So the

competition is good. We welcome Club standard players, Fridays 11.30 – 15.00. There are no subs or visitors fees just table money. The Club has made a good start thanks to the input of all our players and directors, in particular valuable service from Jenny Clayphan, John Crowe, Ken Dodsworth, Sue Munday and Martyn Moxley. In this quiet countryside location in warm weather we can enjoy our picnic lunches

in the open air, we also like the occasional treat and produce from each other's gardens.  Monica Coxon celebrated her 90th birthday in April & May and held a 90 guest birthday party which included a contingent from her previous bridge club at Sale, Cheshire. John Crowe had a big cake shared at the club for his 7th birthday. We all recently marked the Summer and the great tennis event with delicious strawberries and cream from a local producer who supplies Wimbledon LTA.

Evie Whitfield

News from The Birches Bridge Club

The Club has had another successful year and membership has now exceeded 100, with more of Sarah Mathew's students joining the club and playing in one or more of our sessions. Our Swiss Teams event was again a very successful day with 15 teams entering, and won by Ed Bourne, Esme Walker, Andrew Davis & Janet Dowdle. Our AGM and Prize Giving was held in May and Club Competition Winners for 2009/2010 included: Monday Championship Pairs – Mary Bennett & Peter Watts; Mixed Pairs – Heidi MacDougall & Richard Cottam; Flitch – Gordon & Susan Young; Handicap – Brian & June Smith; Wednesday Championship Pairs – Janet Davies-Jones & Di Martin; Wednesday Winter Pairs – Anne Slater & Eileen Richards; Guy Mathews Trophy – Suku Weaver.

We continue to hold three sessions a week – our Monday evening session is where more advanced conventions may be played; Wednesday afternoon is restricted to Standard English only; Thursday afternoon is also restricted to Standard English and is where beginners can start to play in a Duplicate club session in a more relaxed environment.

Our Monday Charity event in April raised £165 for St Michael's Hospice, adding to the £145 we raised for the same charity by the Wednesday club last June. We play in several SIMS Competitions during the year and the best result ever for the club was achieved in May by Jo Kelly and Marie Clark, who were 5th overall.

Janet Dowdle



Tribute to Janet Davies-Jones

She was a most enthusiastic and successful player and a beautiful lady and is sadly missed at The Birches and Marcle Bridge Clubs. Although a relative newcomer to bridge, she had won several annual events at The Birches and done well in County competitions too. Everyone admired her spirit in spite of bad health

and knew how much pleasure bridge gave her by her happy disposition and her sparkling eyes.




Interesting Deal



This hand shows the skill of a partnership which allows both parties a look in.

East	West
♠ AQJ xxxxx	void
♥ AKQx	Jxxx
♦ x	Axxxx
♣ void	Axxx

Here after the initial spade bid with a diamond response the East player helpfully showed Hearts which enabled the heart fit to be found. With a decent trump split 7 Hearts is cold, king of Spades showing up on the second round, is ruffed by West and a Club or Diamond ruff in East's hand with its last heart enables access to the remainder of the Spades.

Those who got carried away with their 8 card Spade suit  found that they only make 6 Spades and missed the grand slam with 4/4 hearts.

County Matters



The County teams have had a disappointing year in the Western league finishing 8th in the A Division, 7th in the B Division and 4th in the C Division of the 8 counties taking part. Consistency in performance seems to have been a major factor throughout the squad, with several pairings mixing both good and indifferent performances.

Outside formal County matches, Herefordshire players have been attending several Green Pointed Events, although high positions remain difficult to achieve. Jennifer Baker and Pam Crisp came a very creditable 18th from 88 pairs in the Devon Congress in April, while Ben Paske, Tom Paske and Alice Kaye all represented England Under 25s in the prestigious White House Tournament in Amsterdam, but finished below halfway. In the recent Midlands Bowl, the team of Richard Croot, Tony Truluck, Mike Ralph and

John Thacker finished 3rd of the 12 County teams after holding a half-time lead. In the Garden Cities Hereford Club finished 3rd in the Regional Final, just missing qualification for the National Final.

County Training is continuing during the Summer months as we prepare for next season. During this period, possible new pairings are being examined, while other changes to the squad are being considered prior to the new season beginning in September.

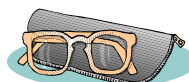
While nominally the Summer is regarded as a close season, we do have a few events on the calendar, apart from the Midlands covered above; the County are participating in the President's Cup in Tollemache format in July and the Midland Pairs in September. *Peter Watts*



HAND OF CARDS A.W.O.L.

A hand was found missing from a board. When the previous table had been thoroughly searched, and the floor underneath the furniture scrutinised, the Director ordered the 4 players to turn out their pockets and handbags. The missing hand of 13 cards was found in a glasses case and the absent minded player

vaguely recalled having real difficulty forcing them into the case!!!



PROMOTIONS



Many Congratulations to the 50 members who have achieved promotions. With the start of Pay to Play many have arrived on the list. To see Herefordshire promotions please go to the EBU website or ask your Club to display the list on your Club Notice Board.

Forthcoming Events

Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Joint Green Point Weekend - September 25th (Pairs 1pm) and
26th (Teams 11am) at the Larruperz Centre, Ross-on-Wye;
Draw for HBA In-house Teams KO competition & play of 1st round - Friday 8th October at Ledbury (7pm);
First round of the HBA Inter-Club Teams League - Friday 15th October at Ledbury (7pm).

Please send articles, reports, pictures etc for the next newsletter to Martyn Moxley by 4 September

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Address: 15, Pound Close, Ledbury, HR8 2XX