

HEREFORDSHIRE BRIDGE

Newsletter 99

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

In a moment of recklessness at the last AGM, I volunteered to take on the job of Chairman of the HBA and was elected. I would like to thank Tony Shadforth for his sterling work during the last three years as Chairman and I realise that it will be a hard task to follow.

I hope to visit all of our Affiliated Clubs during my current year in office in order to introduce myself to members I don't already know and also to get views of all members on all aspects of duplicate bridge. I am very keen to encourage participation in County events whilst making sure that these events are enjoyed by all. The level of entries so far in events - this year being sponsored by individual clubs - is very promising.

One last point. We only have two active County Directors. So, if any club directors have the urge to obtain the qualifications, I would like to hear from them. Meanwhile, don't forget that bridge is sometimes painful but should always be fun.

Enjoy it.

Ben Britton

Editor Martyn Moxley Dec 2010

NATIONAL PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP

Hereford Bridge Club is hosting the qualifying round of the National Pairs at 7 pm on Tuesday, February 8th, 2011. All bridge players are eligible to enter this competition and will be most welcome.

This is a national competition. About one third of the pairs at the qualifying round will be invited to take part in the Regional Final at Bristol Bridge Club on March 20th. The top pairs at the Regional Final qualify to go on to play in the National Final at Hinckley Island on April 16th & 17th.

Entry fees for the qualifying round will be £9 per pair, payable at the event. Table money of £40 per pair will be charged at both the Regional and the National Finals.

Hereford Bridge Club meets at Saxon Hall off Hoarwithy Road, Putson, Hereford, at 7 pm every Tuesday. The National Pairs will be open to everybody and we hope as many members of the County as possible will enter. You are welcome to turn up on the night, but it would be better if you could book a place in advance, just in case we run out of space. Please contact Gordon Thornewell (01432 272718) at least a week in advance to make sure of a place.

Mike Ralph



Some of last season's competition winners with the trophies they were awarded at Herefordshire County Bridge Association's AGM – Bob Underhill, John Thacker, Peter Bellamy, Derrick Mundy, Ian Murray-Watson, Ben Britton, Peter Watts, John Griffiths, Pat Jenkins, Sue Mundy, John Crowe, Geoff Harrington (photo courtesy of Chris Chowney).

WANTED!

ARTICLES FOR

MARCH'S NEWSLETTER

**EMAIL YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS - ARTICLES, PUZZLES, ANECDOTES,
REMINISCENCES, LETTERS, JOKES, PHOTOGRAPHS, ILLUSTRATIONS,
CLUB NEWS, RESULTS etc....**

to MARTYN MOXLEY at

marmoxley@waitrose.com

15 Pound Close, Ledbury, HR8 2SU

DEADLINE MARCH 7TH

**The newsletter is only as good as the county's players are prepared to
make it!!!**

Welsh Bridge Union Swiss Teams – Llangollen

Four Ledbury Club players, Jennifer Baker, Pam Crisp, John Williams and Neville Shorrick were surprise winners at the Mid Wales Congress in Llandidrod Wells two years ago. In November this year, in the annual WBU Swiss Teams event held at Llangollen, they were less successful but achieved a very good result, finishing 14th out of a field of 41 teams.

The competition was very strong and included Welsh national squads and county players from many parts of the country.

The team's performance was particularly amazing considering that they lost their first three matches and were placed 41st and last at this stage. But they recovered and won seven out of the remaining nine matches to climb to 14th place. Indeed they finished strongly with an 18-2 victory to achieve a very satisfactory overall result.

All the team did well, but Jennifer Baker and her partner Pam Crisp were particularly outstanding.

Neville Shorrick

Brunch and bridge

Last Friday of every month join the players at Marcle Bridge Club, Bromsberrow, for a bacon bap.

10.30 am

Play begins at 11.30am

The Healey Cup

This annual joint Herefordshire and Worcester Swiss Teams event saw a healthy number of players representing the county's clubs.

The Marcle Club team of Sue and Derrick Munday, John Crowe and Martyn Moxley eventually pipping a Hereford team of Carol and Albert Brown, Bob Underhill and Ian Murray-Watson for second place. It was a curiosity that the winning Worcester team also contained players who regularly play at Bromsberrow on a Friday - Sue Evans, Marion Wilcox and Dennis Loynes.

Bridge is a game of 'only ifs...'. So here's one! The bidding, non vulnerable against vulnerable, has gone:

1♣ - 1♦ - P - P

2♣ - 2♦ - P - P

3♣ - P - P - ?

Would you raise partner to 3♦ holding ?

♠ xxxxx

♥ xxxx

♦ Kxx

♣ x

If so you would have drawn the match with the eventual winners instead of conceding 6 imps and maybe have carried off the trophy. Maybe....because then you might not have won the last two matches 18 – 2 & 20 – 0.

Martyn Moxley

Fownhope



The second of two celebrations of John Poole's 90th birthday. Two were necessary because Fownhope Bridge Club has two sessions - a daytime one at Fownhope and an evening one at Hampton Bishop village hall and not all members play on both days.

Chairman Heather Brace kept a watchful eye to make sure John could cut cake as well as cards at the Wednesday session. Afterwards members enjoyed a glass of wine as well as sausage rolls and cake, and Bridge of course.

John served as treasurer for the club for some years and he is moving to Richmond in Surrey to be near relatives so the wine and sherry John received was by way of a farewell present. John said how much he had enjoyed his time with Fownhope Bridge Club.

Heather and John rounded off a successful event by coming top in the evening's Bridge.

Cutting the cake as well as cutting the cards was also a pleasant duty for Phyllis Waters at Fownhope's Wednesday session. To celebrate her 96th birthday, the Club suspended Bridge for a while to celebrate with wine, cake and nibbles.

One of the original members of Fownhope Bridge Club, Phyllis is still a regular player.



One person who played with her in those early days was Ken Nelson - an honorary member of the club - and although he now lives in Torquay, he turned up to pay tribute to Phyllis and celebrate years of friendship.

Phyllis's daughter made an even longer journey to join in the celebrations. She came from her home in Menorca, bearing a large consignment of home made sausage rolls to add to the nibbles and cakes

Chairman Heather Brace selected the club's birthday present, a potted rose appropriately named "Old Timer"

After cutting the cake, Phyllis said how delighted she was to see so many old friends and thanked the club for organising the celebrations and being such a friendly club.

In our picture, flanked by Club Chairman Heather Brace and Ken Nelson, Phyllis prepares to cut the cake.

Ted Dutton

COUNTY MATTERS

The County have played two sets of Western League matches against Somerset and East Wales. The A Team lost both their matches 20 – 0 to Somerset, 9 -11 to East Wales. The B Team had a winning draw against Somerset and beat East Wales 11 – 9. The C Team were defeated 12 – 8 and 14 -6 respectively.

In the National Teams of Eight Championships (Tollemache), the County had their best result in most of the players' memory and while sixth of nine teams in the Group, competition is at its highest level as the scores are cross imp'd. This represented something of a disappointment as on the first day the team were standing a close third after a very strong performance, which included two big wins against Somerset (18 -2), reversing the Western League result, and thrashing Leicestershire 20 – 0.

Unfortunately, our standard was not maintained on Sunday and the team slowly drifted down the standings.

Best performances came from Junior Internationals Alice Kaye and Ben Paske, while Ben Britton and Chris Chowney also had a sound week-end.

In other events, Tom Paske won a Pairs Competition at the prestigious Brighton event in August, while Ben Paske was awarded Young Player of the Year and Alice Kaye part of the Young Pair of the Year. On a wider International footing, Tom Paske was part of the England team that were defeated by Poland in the Final of the World Junior Championships in Philadelphia. Ben Paske and Alice Kaye have been further

selected for the Channel Trophy to be held in Amsterdam during December.

In other events, the team of Sarah Mathews, John Griffiths, Ian Murray-Watson and Peter Watts finished 11th of 66 teams in the prestigious Malvern Congress.

Peter Watts

BROMYARD

The club is having difficulty in getting five tables at present. To be viable we have to have a minimum of six tables yielding £48. The hall at present costs £7.5 per hour ie £30. The EBU requires 29p per head (£6.96 for 6 tables). This does not leave much left over to buy coffee & biscuits and stationary!

It has been suggested that we switch to an afternoon slot. The hall is free on a Wednesday afternoon between 3 and 5 pm.

The matter will be discussed at the AGM but as a number of people are not coming to Bromyard in the winter months the club's chair, David Rex, is asking for feedback from them before the AGM so that their views can be taken into consideration.

One other thing to note is that 4hrs parking in Bromyard during the day would cost 70p at present.

David Rex

Hereford & Wyeside

There's a Welcome in the City

It's always good to see 'newer' players participating outside their Club environment – in the Inter-Club Teams at Ledbury and particularly in Worcestershire's Healey Cup. Hereford BC and Wyeside BC are always keen to welcome any players who wish to broaden their experience and encourage them to play on Tuesdays or Thursdays.

Since April, Hereford BC has had a quarterly Seminar evening, with a host and the 'visitor' sub waived. Similarly Wyeside BC is hoping to hold welcoming evenings on the 2nd Thursdays of March, April & May 2011, commencing with a Seminar, host, sub waived, Level 2 system limit and some post-event hand analyses either by e mail or website.

One of the Hereford Seminars was **'Why and How to Count'**, based on the book 'Countdown to Winning Bridge' by Tim Bourke & Marc Smith (Master Point Press).

As Declarer, in addition to....

- always count your tricks before you play to trick one
- decide which suits to count
- remember the bidding
- count the points from a 'limited' hand (1NT opener)
- delay the crucial decision (finesse etc) until the latest possible moment

you also need to....

- discover each Defenders' shape.

Sometimes the Defence will help you by pre-empting (7 card suit), opening a weak two (6 card suit) or showing a two-suited hand (minimum 5 / 5).

Here is a Hand to play (as South), after 1♥, 2♥ (showing at least 5/5 in the black suits), X, 2♠, 3♥, Pass...you? 3 NT – why not? This is a good choice as 4♥ fails on the Club ruff.

	♠10 x	
	♥AK109 x x	
	♦A x	
	♣x x x	
♠QJ x		♠A8 x x x
♥J8 x x		♥x
♦Q98 x		♦10 x
♣10 x		♣AK9 x x
	♠K9 x	
	♥Q x	
	♦KJ x x x	
	♣QJ x	

The Q♠ lead runs round to your K. If hearts are 3/2 you can scrape home, but . . STOP! You know ten of West's cards but must find out what he/she holds in the red suits. You play the Q♥ and all follow – great. Now you lead a small diamond to the Ace & back to the King – what? Yes, to discover West's exact distribution - 5,1,2,5. Now you play a small heart and finesse with confidence, making 1 spade, 6 hearts & 2 diamond tricks.

What happens when West shows out on the Q♥? Oh dear! Diamonds are now 3/3 and you will have to finesse through your J♦ – and go 2 down. That's Bridge!

Stephen Booth