

**R**eg Fildes died in December 2009. He was on the WCBA committee from 1980 to 1988 and treasurer from 1982 to 1987.

# Midland Counties Congress

This was the sixtieth midland county congress, and despite the worst winter weather for thirty years, many bridge players made it over to Malvern to play.

The award for the strangest bidding sequence of the weekend goes to this from the pairs final:

West	North	East	South
A Williams	D Sheerin	S Lane	M Stretch
1♣	2♣ <sup>1</sup>	pass <sup>2</sup>	3♣ <sup>3</sup>
4♣	4♠	all pass	

<sup>1</sup> Michaels (both majors)

<sup>2</sup> not getting into the spirit of things

<sup>3</sup> pick a major

Onto the results:

## Mixed Pairs

1 <sup>st</sup>	Dodo Georgevic & Robin Ogg	59.85%
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Barbara Roberts & Tony Poole	59.28%
3 <sup>rd</sup>	John Sansom & Joyce Skelton	59.09%

## Mens Pairs

1 <sup>st</sup>	Peter Oldbury & Brent Wormald	57.29%
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mike Amos & Ian Mitchell	56.77%
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Aidan Schofield & Terry Butler	56.25%

## Ladies Pairs

1 <sup>st</sup>	Evelyn Whiteford & Juliana Berck	62.92%
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Sue Lane & Marian Wilcox	61.25%
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sue Evans & Stephanie Forward	60.00%

## Mixed Teams

1 <sup>st</sup>	Marilyn Jones & Peter Donovan, Adam Wood & Alan Best	+88
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Steph Forward & Sue Evans, Nick Forward & Dennis Loynes	+44
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Liz Commins & David Stevenson, Gayle Webb & Jenny Gray	+37
4 <sup>th</sup>	Christopher Hill & Jane Knight, Jenny Ashby & Rick Assad	+35

## Pairs A

1 <sup>st</sup>	Pauline Lang & Steven Mattinson	66.90%
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Alan Best & Adam Wood	57.41%
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Dan McIntosh & Derek Rue	53.01%
4 <sup>th</sup>	Graham Pollack & David Wing	52.78%
5 <sup>th</sup>	Steve Webb & Martin David	52.55%

## Pairs B

1 <sup>st</sup>	Dave Rutter & Dave Pratt	60.88%
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Peter Donovan & David Jones	58.56%
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Adrian Knight & Leslie Reece	55.09%
4 <sup>th</sup>	Lawrence & Jenny Gaunt	54.63%
5 <sup>th</sup>	Richard Jephcott & John Sansom	54.40%

## Swiss Pairs

1 <sup>st</sup>	Margaret Wort & Pat Watson	91
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Bill & Joyce White	84
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Dick & Jane Rutter	82
4 <sup>th</sup>	Barry & Hazel Capal	78
5 <sup>th</sup> =	Jack Terry & Alan Jones	75
5 <sup>th</sup> =	Peter Styles & Sue Ryles	75

## Teams A

1 <sup>st</sup>	Adrian Knight & Leslie Reece, Alan Best & Adam Wood	+56
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Dan McIntosh & Derek Rue, Ian & Val Constable	+39
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Dodo Georgevic & Robin Ogg, Peter Oldbury & Brent Wormald	+28

## Teams B

1 <sup>st</sup>	John Sansom & Richard Jephcott, Grahame Weir & Mike Theelke	+68
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Lindsay Geddes & Pam Pearce, Tony Hill & Graham Sadie	+42
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Carolyn Fisher & Jane Hall, Stephen Gore & Stewart Fishburne	+29

## Swiss Teams

1 <sup>st</sup>	Celia Day & Jane Stirton, J Matthews & G Winterburn	124
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Hannah Kearns & Nicky Willis, Hilary Brain & Chris Stevens	105
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Nick Pegg & Adam Harvey, Eric Smith & Prabir Nandi	100



# Mixed Pairs

For the third year running, the Worcestershire mixed pairs was won by Pam Pearce and John Sansom. The top half:

1 <sup>st</sup>	Pam Pearce & John Sansom	61.32%
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Stephanie & Nick Forward	57.41%
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Barbara Griffiths & Eric Martin	56.94%
4 <sup>th</sup>	Ada Phillips & Rob Blakeway	56.71%
5 <sup>th</sup>	Monica Parker & Ian Argyle	56.38%
6 <sup>th</sup>	Jane & Dick Rutter	54.86%
7 <sup>th</sup>	Lyn Jackson & Richard Jephcott	53.91%
8 <sup>th</sup>	Sue Evans & Dennis Loynes	53.01%
9 <sup>th</sup>	Jessie Newton & John Turner	52.88%

# Healey Cup

This is the inter-club teams for 4 competition for Worcestershire and Herefordshire teams. Thirteen teams took part this year and the results were as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup>	Robin Lewis, Paul Smith, Steve Booth & Chris Chowney (Hereford)	98
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Dick & Jane Rutter, Maureen Hannah & Mike Vetch (Worcester)	78
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sue Evans, Ray Foulds, Pam Pearce & Denis Loynes (Worcester)	73
4 <sup>th</sup>	Ronnie Moore, Veronica Enticknap, Colin Payne & Sally Martin (Evesham)	63
5 <sup>th</sup>	Pat Jenkins, Ian Murray-Watson, George Richardson & Tim Young (Hereford)	58
6 <sup>th</sup>	Ben Britton, Gisela Ogden, Basil Goddard & Gillian Goddard (Wyeseide)	57
7 <sup>th</sup>	Myra Hunter, Liliane Wright, Wendy Packwood & Richard Greenwood (Bewdley)	56
8 <sup>th</sup>	Sue Lane, Marian Wilcox, Bernard Palmer & Maurice Curtis (Malvern)	54
9 <sup>th</sup>	Ross Whyard, Stan Grove, Mark Stretch & John Cotton (Evesham)	53
10 <sup>th</sup>	David Halford, Monica Parker, Brian Varley & Carol Varley (Bewdley)	52
11 <sup>th</sup>	Mike Lane, Bill Everley, Angela Lane & Judy Eaton (Malvern Hills)	47
12 <sup>th</sup>	Martin Rees, Mel Downing, Alan Boyes & Doug Stainton (Pershore)	46
13 <sup>th</sup>	Peter Edwards, Fred Parkin, Mike Heard & David Philpott (Stourbridge)	45



## Year end

At the northern year end congress,Dick & Jane Rutter finished third in the mixed pairs.

# Bewdley Bridge Club

By Brian Varley

On the 4th December a dinner was held at the British Legion Club, Hartlebury, where the Bridge Club meets, usually on a Wednesday.

For a small club with around 50 members it was gratifying to have an attendance of 23 and I am pleased to report that all enjoyed the event.

Cedit must be given to Committee member Linda Symonds for inspiring the idea and to Committee Secretary Wendy Silverstone for making it a reality. Our thanks must also go to the Legion's Head Chef, Sheila, and her staff both for the quality of the food and the efficient service of it. The general expressed view was that the event was an unqualified success and should be repeated next year. I hope that will be so. For me, it was brilliant to see nothing but smiling faces around without exception both at the dinner and in the subsequent bridge session. What an excellent start to the Festive Season.

Bewdley Bridge Club's annual handicap competition was held on 9th December, and the leading positions were: -

Peter Dobson & Alan Freeston	62.35%
	-0.85%=61.50%
Eileen Oakley & Harry Henfrey	60.07%
	-0.11%=59.96%
Monica Parker & David Halford	54.94%
	-0.57%=54.37%

It takes some doing, to win both gross and net; congratulations to Peter and Alan.



## Hot Tub

Now I don't own a hot tub, but I know people who do. I found out the other day that if you get a hot tub, they come with various accessories, including waterproof playing cards to use whilst in there.

Sounds like a bizarre location for a bridge match to me but who knows?



# Promotions

Congratulations to the following on their recent master point promotions:

## Life Master: P Tapster

**\* \* Premier Regional Master: D R Halford**

**\* \* Regional Master: L Gervis, I A Gervis**

**\* Premier Master:** M Heard

\* \* \* \* **Master:** M Millar

\* **Master:** R B Hill

**County Master:** A Sargent

**District Master:** P J Slater

**Area Master:** A Cole

**Club Master:** D J Carter

**Local Master:** J E Summers



## Closed Teams

The qualifying session for this was held on 5 October. The top eight teams from the qualifier are eligible for the knock-out stages. The quarter finals were as follows:

**Richard Jephcott, John Sansom, Mike Theelke, Grahame Weir** *defeated* Mike Vetch, Robert Chilimonczyk, Susan Sharp, Maureen Hannah

Ian Lineker, Georgina Lineker, Brian Nightingale, David Banks *lost to* **Linda Gervis, Stephanie Forward, Tony Gervis, Paul Greaves, Paul Tapster**

Nick Forward, Steve Allerston, Brett Welch, Clive Finney, Paul Hooker *lost to* **Sue Page, John Turner, Mike Willoughby, Simon Harrison, Ian Thompson**

Jean Newton, Jessie Newton, Dennis Loynes, Sue Evans *lost to* **Stewart Fishburne, Paul Hammond, Joyce Skelton, Arthur Williams**



# NICKO

Any club can enter one of more teams of four in the **National Inter Club Knock Out** or NICKO for short. Early rounds are regionalised to avoid too much travelling. There are 3 Worcestershire teams in the competition, with the following results:

**Evesham** defeated Chipping Campden in round one, and have a bye in round two.

**Worcester** defeated Hereford in round one and also have a bye in round two.

**Droitwich** lost to one West Midlands bridge club in round one, and are in the plate competition.



# Save all your xx's for me

The Autumn simultaneous pairs saw a number of interesting hands. Take for example this defensive problem. Sitting south, the bidding goes as follows:

North	East	South	West
pass	1♦	pass	1♠
pass	2♦	pass	3♥
pass	3NT <sup>1</sup>	all pass	

1 After rather a long think.

You lead your fourth highest club (the unbid suit)  
and this is what you can see

♠ K, 8, 7, 4, 3, 2  
♥ A, Q, 9, 6  
♦ Q, 7  
♣ A

Dealer North  
All vulnerable

♠ J, 10, 5  
♥ 8, 5, 4  
♦ A, 6  
♣ K, 10, 9, 7, 5

The club lead is won perforce by dummy's ace, and declarer plays a diamond to his king and ace. What do you do?

Declarer can't have four clubs or his rebid would surely have been in clubs rather than diamonds. Unless he's insane he wouldn't bid 3NT with a singleton, so he presumably has ♣ H, x or ♣ H, x, x. If the former you need to cash ♣K and then the rest. If the latter you need to try to put partner in to fire a club through.

It all depends upon those little xx's that were played to the first trick. Partner will know that you face this dilemma and should have given you count at trick one. In this case partner played the 2 and you can take four club tricks. The full hand:



	♠ Q, 9, 2	Dealer North
	♥ J, 10, 2	All vulnerable
	♦ 9, 4	
	♣ J, 6, 4, 3, 2	
♠ K, 8, 7, 4, 3, 2		♠ A
♥ A, Q, 9, 6		♥ K, 7, 3
♦ Q, 7		♦ K, J, 10, 8, 5, 3, 2
♣ A		♣ Q, 8
	♠ J, 10, 5	
	♥ 8, 5, 4	
	♦ A, 6	
	♣ K, 10, 9, 7, 5	

The following day saw a slam hand which many missed. Although short on high cards there's more than enough shape to make up for it:

♠ 10, 5, 4, 3, 2  
♥ A, 10, 8  
♦ J, 6, 5, 3  
♣ 10

♠ A, K Q, 8, 6  
 ♥ 9, 7, 6  
 ♦ void  
 ♣ A, K, 9, 8, 7

How to bid it? Well, the sequence at our table was:

South	North
1♠(ACOL)	4♠(~6 points, 5+♣)
5♣ (cue bid)	5♥ (cue)
6♠	

[illegible]

# County Teams

Finally some form for our teams. The first team defeated Lincolnshire 13-7 and Staffordshire 17-3, their first 2 wins of the season. They now lie 7<sup>th</sup> in the table.

The second team hadn't won all year either, but managed two big wins: 20-0 against Lincolnshire and 18-2 against Staffordshire. They have reached the heady heights of 4<sup>th</sup> in the league.

The third team has been the best performing team all year but lost 6-14 against Lincolnshire before bouncing back to win 15-5 against Staffordshire. This leaves them 5<sup>th</sup> at the moment.

Worcestershire also enter a team every year in the Tolleman competition. This year the team finished 6th out of 9 teams in its qualifying group.

# Flat Board?

**R**ecently, at Evesham bridge club, the entire field got 680 north south, making it flat (mind you Ross was E/W). Question is, can the slam be bid?

The hands were;

North: ♠A, J, 8, 4, 2 ♥A, K, 7 ♦K, 10, 7, 4 ♣10  
South: ♠K, Q, 9, 7, 5, 3 ♥Q, J, 8 ♦- ♣J, 8, 6, 2

Dealer south

Playing basic acol, how about:

South pass (no weak 2s)

North 1♠

South 3♣ (fit jump, agrees spades and shows a side suit in which help is required)

North 4♥ (better than minimum so happy to play in game at least & cue bidding A♥)

South 5♦ (cue bidding void)

North: 6♠ (only a club to lose it seems, slam at worst on a trump finesse)



# Pershore Bridge Club

<http://www.pershorebridge.co.uk/>

The award for slammer of the year goes to Barry Sayers. Allen Dixon & Marianne Thomas on the Most improved pair and Roger Wood the most improved individual. Alan Boyes topped the 2009 masterpoints list.

[illegible]

# Evesham Bridge Club

[www.eveshambridgeclub.org.uk](http://www.eveshambridgeclub.org.uk)

The Steve Sawyer teams of four competition was won by Lillie Taylor & Linda Halford, Dave Edwards & Paul Bament ahead of Wilf Atkinson & Chris Enticknap, Doris Newman & John Cotton.

[illegible]

# The 2009/2010 Worcestershire Grand Prix Teams

In a turnaround in fortune, Moore's marauders who were bottom in the first heat storm to victory in heat 2. Several new teams joined, and the standings after 2 rounds are as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup>	Three Retirees and a Worker	36 ↔
2 <sup>nd</sup> =	Leada	31 new
2 <sup>nd</sup> =	Black Pairs	31 ↑
4 <sup>th</sup> =	Rag, Tag & Bobtail	30 new
4 <sup>th</sup> =	Worcester Grant	30 ↔
4 <sup>th</sup> =	Polish Forcing Pass	30 ↑
7 <sup>th</sup>	Spam	29 ↓
8 <sup>th</sup> =	Half a Team	28 ↓
8 <sup>th</sup> =	Coppertoppers	28 ↓
8 <sup>th</sup> =	Moore's Marauders	28 ↑
11 <sup>th</sup>	The Bare Essentials	23 new
12 <sup>th</sup> =	Norfolk Chance	22 ↓
12 <sup>th</sup> =	Witley Wanderers	22 ↑
14 <sup>th</sup>	Great Expectations	21 ↓
15 <sup>th</sup> =	Spadesbourne	18 ↓
16 <sup>th</sup> =	Bewdley Bridgers	17 ↓
16 <sup>th</sup> =	John's Girls	17 new



# Bredon Bridge Club

<http://www.bridgewebs.com/bredon/home.html>

The chairman doesn't expect people to take much notice of what he says, so why should it be different when he suggested players bid more slams? With just three weeks before Slammer of the Year is decided, Colin light-heartedly urged members to go for the big ones. "Look out for some high-wire bidding," the website had said.

By an extraordinary coincidence, however, there followed an exceptional night on 4 December, with 14 slams bid and made, including three grand slams – more than during the whole of 2009 until then. Sadly for East-Wests, 13 of them were by the other side, with the poor consolation that as shufflers for the majority of hands they will have provided them for the opposition.

With Wilf and Chris playing two grand slams in the night (and Chris writing on Board 25 “as instructed by Colin”), they are now some way ahead on the Slammers ladder: Wilf 22, Chris 17, Roger 14, Di 13.

## Interesting Hand

By Alan Boyes

**H**i - take a look at board 14 for 25/11 at PDBC. How does east make 6♥? Looks impossible unless ops make it easy for you....

♠ 10, 9, 6, 4, 2      Dealer East  
♥ Q, 4, 3      Love all  
♦ Q, 10, 8, 4  
♣ 4

♠ J, 5  
 ♥ K, 10, 8  
 ♦ K, J, 6  
 ♣ A, Q, J, 10, 8

♠ K, Q, 7, 3  
 ♥ A, 9, 6, 5, 2  
 ♦ A, 7, 2  
 ♣ K

♠ A, 8  
 ♥ J, 7  
 ♦ 9, 5, 3  
 ♣ 9, 7, 6, 5, 3, 2

You can add your own expert commentary but .....

Firstly, (assuming ops don't make it easy for you) You must either force south to ruff spades or force north to ruff clubs - whatever, you then over ruff and draw trumps or finesse the queen in north hand. If South doesn't ruff the spades you can then switch to the king of diamonds in west (having played the ♦ ace) and then play clubs - by this time north will run out of discards and will be forced to play a trump which is over-ruffed and the hearts come down. Simple - as the advert says!!!!

Not really!!<sup>1</sup>



## Malvern Hills

<http://www.bridgewebs.com/malvern hills/>

Malvern Hills Bridge Club has the following special events coming up which we would like publicised:

Thurs. 25 Mar 2010: Mens and Ladies Pairs Event;  
guests welcome

Sat. 17 April 2010: Spring Tuition Day 9-5; the topic will be Part Score Competitive Bidding by an accredited WBC instructor



1 As proved by the traveller. The four people in a slam all went one off.

# Malvern Bridge Club

At Malvern Bridge Club the leading players in the 2009 competitions have been:

## Individual

1 Ray Foulds	61.90%
2 Sue Evans	61.81%
3 Sue Lane	61.56%

Ray winning in a close finish, with the top three some way ahead of the rest of the field.

## Individual Handicap (improver of the year)

1 Irene Culcheth	5.50%
2 Brenda Tuck	2.78%
3 Linda Gervis	2.20%
4 Diana Roberts	2.09%

## Pairs

1 Sue Evans & Ray Foulds	62.94%
2 Neville Shorrick & John Crowe	62.71%
3 Sue Lane & Paul Hammond	61.07%

Another close finish!

## Championship Pairs playoff

1 Paul Tapster & Bill Everley	60.19%
2 Ray Foulds & Sue Evans	59.72%
3 Jane & Dick Rutter	56.94%

Paul and Bill retaining their title from 2008.



# Bridge Tuition

By Ian Thompson

The idea of the training/teaching days is to help intermediate club players improve their game. We do this by spending approximately 1 hour in introducing a specific topic and then allowing the players to practice the techniques learnt by playing a group of specially set hands, with the tutors helping the students. If the session is a whole day event, then we usually play some general hands in the afternoon with tutors on hand to assist.

To date we have run these training sessions within Worcestershire at the following clubs:

- Droitwich (3 different days)
- Malvern Hills (1 day & 1 planned)
- Evesham (1 day)
- Ridgeway (2 half-days)
- Special evening session at a player's home (1 session)

Veronica Enticknap gives her thoughts on the Evesham training day:

The lesson was pitched at club level members but I remember thinking that it wasn't put over in such a way as to belittle the members, some of whom had been playing for several years. Our lesson was on defence and he gave a well rounded presentation of the basic facts and guidelines and, perhaps more importantly, the thought processes behind our actions as a defender. There were numerous hands to practice the newly acquired defence strategies following the lesson, with help from Ian if anyone got muddled and needed assistance. A nicely presented information pack was given to everyone summarising the key points. It is always useful to review the lesson at home!



# Leagues

The following are the standings in each division:

Division 1	Ply	Won	Drw	Lst	Pts
Great expectations	3	3	-	-	45
Uncontrolled psychics	3	2	-	1	32
Striped tailed apes	2	2	-	-	30
Three and a half grand	3	2	-	1	29
Bridge at the ridge	3	-	-	3	22
Noble rot	2	-	-	2	13
Five are even better	2	-	-	2	9

Division 2	Ply	Won	Drw	Lst	Pts
Acolics	3	1	-	2	34
Recycled teenagers	3	2	-	1	32
Split menaces	2	2	-	-	29
The weak twos	3	1	-	2	28
Double faults	3	1	-	2	22
Banal bridge	2	1	-	1	18
Dingle duos	2	1	-	1	17

Division 3	Ply	Won	Drw	Lst	Pts
Alice springs	2	2	-	-	33
Disciples of yigra	2	2	-	-	31
Magpies	2	1	-	1	20
Hugo o'barry	2	1	-	1	19
Beech babes	2	-	-	2	15
Bromsgrove	2	-	-	2	2

<b>Division 4</b>	<b>Ply</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Drw</b>	<b>Lst</b>	<b>Pts</b>
The tennis aces	2	2	-	-	35
Arrow	2	2	-	-	32
Old peculiars	2	1	-	1	20
Hanbury chicks	2	-	-	2	8
Evesham aces	1	-	-	1	3
Worcester sauce	1	-	-	1	2

<b>No fear 1</b>	<b>Ply</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Drw</b>	<b>Lst</b>	<b>Pts</b>
Wordsley whatnots	3	-	1	2	26
Stourport slammers	2	2	-	-	25
Fair deal	2	1	-	1	21
The dream team	2	1	1	-	21
The horse whisperers	3	-	-	3	20
Picasso	1	1	-	-	16
Crowle	1	1	-	-	11

<b>No fear 2</b>	<b>Ply</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Drw</b>	<b>Lst</b>	<b>Pts</b>
The bandits	2	2	-	-	36
Pirton pirates!	2	1	-	1	24
Jimmy's beginners	2	1	-	1	12
Bills bells	2	-	-	2	8



## Forthcoming events

### Weekend Competitions

**Club Championship Pairs** – 21st February  
(Astley Village Hall)

**County Championship Pairs Final** – 14th March  
(Droitwich)

**Ron Allen Cup** (Garden Cities Qualifier) – 11th April  
(Cookhill)

### County Events at Droitwich Working Men's Club (Mondays)

March 1st - **Closed Championship Pairs Qualifier<sup>2</sup>** (Final on 14th March at Droitwich)

March 22nd- **Veteran Pairs** (both players must be 65 years “young” or over)

April 12th - **Phillipps Cup Final**

Events start at 7.15pm. (unless stated otherwise) no need to pre-enter

You must be a member of the EBU to play

2 only open to players with WCBA as county of primary allegiance

### Worcestershire Grand Prix Teams

Coming Dates – 18th January; 8th February; 8th March

This is a new event involving teams all over the County played on five Mondays, excluding the leading County players who will act as hosts.

Trophy and prizes are awarded for winning team plus free entry for next year's event. Slam bidding competition plus consolation prizes.

Still time to participate. Current standings are on page 6.

### Worcestershire Club Championship Pairs

To be held on Sunday 21st February 2010 at Astley Village Hall, Astley, Near Stourport,

Entry £10 per pair. Buffet Lunch £5.50pp

Start 2pm. Finish approx 8.30pm

Entries by 5th February please

Contact Alan Reid on ☎ 07976426868 or ✉ [alan@amber42.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:alan@amber42.fsnet.co.uk)

### Ron Allen Cup –Garden Cities Qualifier

Sunday 11th April 2010. Start 1pm

At Cookhill Village Hall, Cookhill, Near Alcester, B49 5JS.

Entry £50 per team of 8.

Entries by 26th March please

For more information on any of these events, visit our website, <http://www.worcestershirebridge.co.uk/> or contact Alan Reid: ☎ 07976426868 or ✉ [alan@amber42.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:alan@amber42.fsnet.co.uk)



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