

# WCBA Newsletter to Players

NUMBER 4, AUGUST 2010

Hi! Everyone,

At the WCBA AGM this summer, Colin Lang stood down as Chairman, and Darren Evetts was elected in his place. We have [a final word from Colin Lang](#) and [a note from Darren Evetts](#), the new Chairman.

Looking back to our highly successful last season, we have an [“End of Term Report”](#) from Adrian on the County matches and [a list of the year’s competition results](#).

We have an outline of the exciting competitions on offer this year.

The first to start will be the Warwickshire Pairs League (Wednesday September 15<sup>th</sup>), to guarantee your place and division, you need to confirm your intention to play now, or at the latest, by August 24<sup>th</sup>. ([Mike.meakin@uwcub.net](mailto:Mike.meakin@uwcub.net)).

We are offering a new look Frank Cup. This teams event will be on Sunday October 17<sup>th</sup>. It is open to any team of Warwickshire affiliated players. While the absolute result will be used to select teams to enter the Goodman Cup, and hence represent the county, the Frank Cup will be awarded on a handicapped basis, so all comers have a chance to shine!

(For more detailed information the competition rules have all been updated and are now on the WCBA website – Many thanks to George Cuthbertson)

You can see up-to-date results from County Competitions and Warwickshire, Birmingham & Coventry Bridge Leagues, Competition Rules and more on the WCBA Website:-

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

Just “control click” on any blue address to go straight there!

Enjoy your bridge!

*Elayne & Mike*

## **FROM THE OUTGOING CHAIRMAN - COLIN LANG**

In my Report to the AGM I referred to a successful year, and a very full list of activities organised by the County - comprising 12 annual competitions, together with Inter-Club and Inter-County Leagues. Attendances were up in most events.

Many of our events are preceded by Club heats, held on normal Club nights, at no extra cost to the members. Club heats should be open to non-Club members (but please check) so if your Club does not hold a Heat, go to one that does.

I am certain the County will continue to encourage newcomers. It is not always possible to provide them with a perfectly level playing field, but I am sure they all benefit from such events. Congratulations to the 30 pairs who took part last year.

I also referred to the urgent need for training of new TDs, and the County have agreed to pay half the cost of any individual wishing to undergo TD Training. Perhaps Clubs will pay the other half, as it benefits them also!

On the question of P2P the County now has some 1,500 members through affiliated Clubs. Please note that any member of a non-affiliated Club can become a "Direct" member of the EBU & County, and can then take part in competitions, and collect master points.

I hope that as many of you as possible will take advantage of what is on offer for 2010 / 2011. There will be something there for everyone, and every level of the game.

Best wishes, Colin Lang

## **CHAIRMAN'S CORNER - DARREN EVETTS**

I would like thank those members who offered me kind words of support upon my election to post of Chairman last Sunday. It would not be fitting for me to proceed further without paying tribute to Colin Lang who has worked tirelessly on behalf of us all over the past three years. I am please to say that Colin will continue to serve on the Executive Committee and as one of our EBU Shareholders.

As I mentioned at the AGM we are a very fortunate County. We have some outstanding players and some of the finest playing accommodation in the country. I also believe that we have a team of people on the Council who are dedicated to providing an outstanding service to their County and I hope you will support them in the course of their duties.

I am committed to continuing the work of my predecessor in the area of newcomers. I believe that it is vital for the future of the game to encourage new players into the game at all levels and to support them in becoming more confident in competing against players with greater experience. I would also welcome ideas for ways in which we can develop this ethos.

In order for us to operate in the spirit of openness and fairness I would ask for our support in the following areas:

**Communication** – I would like to prevail upon all members to think carefully before copying emails to all and sundry. In general emails circulated too many complaining about something, or criticising someone, only serves to breed ill feeling and conflict. There is no problem in receiving considered constructive feedback from any member on any matter relating to the County's operation, but before circulating an email to the masses please consider its effect on those members who, in general, give their time freely in support of our County.

**Council Meetings** – As is the custom Council meetings operate an open door policy and any member of the County is welcome to attend and, where agreed, speak on any matter. The next meeting of the Council will be Monday 26 July, 7pm at West Midlands Bridge Club.

**Feedback** – We welcome feedback on any of the County's activities. If you have anything to say please feel free to contact the Secretary, or any member of the Council. Contact details are available under the information tab on the website.

Finally, I would like to thank, in advance, all those members who give so much in support of our County. Not all these members are on the Council and, indeed, many of them would be unknown to the majority of us. Their efforts are vital to the smooth running of County affairs and events.

I would also like to welcome Mike Thorley as Vice Chairman along with new committee member Nicky Cook.

Thank you for taking the time to read this message.

Darren Evetts

## **CAPTAINS CORNER**

There was an exciting finish to the 2009-10 Midland Inter County league season which runs from May to March (9 Counties). Going into our last match against Derby, the second team were favourites to win their league & the first team had an outside chance of winning their league. An interesting set of boards resulted in a 20-0 defeat for the second team and second place in their league & a 20-0 win for the first team and first place in their league.

The first team went on to win the National final against the winners of other leagues around the country. Congratulations to Mike Leese & Steve Wood, David Jones & Gary Watson, George Cuthbertson & Ian Handley, Roger Bryant & Dave Kenward.

There was also success for Warwickshire in the Midland Inter County Teams of 4. This is an invitation multiple teams event for 12 teams from 6 Midland Counties. Congratulations to George Cuthbertson & Ian Handley, Leslie Reece & Adrian Knight.

The new inter County league season has started with wins for the first team (19-1) & third team (15-5) and a draw for the second team against Worcestershire. Full details of players & results are on the WCBA website.

Warwickshire are very lucky to have several regular teams scored events (WPL, CPL, and BPL & Warwickshire Teams of 4 leagues). These are enjoyable events with divisions to suit all players & and a great way to improve your game & progress to County standard. The selection committee are always on the lookout for pairs performing consistently well at teams scoring.

Regards

Adrian Knight

## **NEW PUBLICITY OFFICER – NICKY COOK**

I have joined the Executive Committee and taken on the role of publicity officer. My background is in IT management, especially in the rail industry. I have been teaching beginners and improvers for some years, and this year I founded Rugby Village Bridge Club, the EBU affiliated club in Rugby. I hope to support Warwickshire Clubs in bringing newcomers to the game, and retaining those players we have in any way I can, as well as boost entry to Warwickshire competitions. I have joined the Newcomers Group and will help teachers and clubs in finding new players and providing opportunities for them to play beyond their first classes. Please contact me at [nickyrcook@aol.com](mailto:nickyrcook@aol.com) if you have any comments or suggestions.

## **COUNTY EDUCATION OFFICER-MYRA SCOTT**

Myra has taken on the role of County Education Officer, her activities will include:

1. Liaison with English Bridge Union especially where they can assist teaching in the County
2. Support for EBUTA Teachers in the County
3. Identify and Promote Teaching in Clubs
4. Youth Bridge Education

## **COMPETITION RESULTS 2009 - 10**

### **Warwickshire Competitions**

#### **Warwickshire Pairs League**

##### **Autumn 2009**

- A** - Roger Bryant & Rob Helle
- B** - John Pyner & Bob Foster
- 1** - Barry Holloway & John Wright
- 2** - Beryl Latham & Pat Gadd

##### **Spring 2010**

- A** - George Cuthbertson & Ian Handley
- B** - Roy Moore & Norman Selwyn
- C** - Mark Johnson & Joan Macleod

**Championship Pairs** - Peter Randall & Diana Thorne

**Consolation Pairs** - Frank Deakin & Mike Butler

**Introductory Pairs** - Val Beesley & Iris Latham

**National Pairs heat** - Ant Edwards & Darren Evetts

**Simultaneous Pairs** - Mary & Julian Shingler

**Mixed Pairs** - Janet Whittaker & John Hind

**Men's Pairs** - Darren Evetts & Paul Hackett

**Ladies' Pairs** - Margaret Wort & Barbara Hackett

**Green Point Swiss Pairs** - James & Shirley Dutton

**Cock O'County** – Henry & Audrey McBride

**Frank Cup** - Adam Wood & David Franks, Adrian Knight & Leslie Reece

**Goodman Cup** - Steve Green & Graham Link, Roger Bryant & Rob Helle

**Inter - Club League:** **Div I** - West Midlands A (Hackett)

**Div II** - West Midlands C (Poole)

**Div III** - Moseley D (Highway)

**Handicap** - West Midlands C (Poole)

**Garden Cities** - Coventry BC

**Inter-County League:** Dawes 1<sup>st</sup> (4<sup>th</sup>) Porter 2<sup>nd</sup> (3rd) Markham 5<sup>th</sup> (3rd)

**Tollemache** (Teams) 5<sup>th</sup> (3rd)

**Pachabo** (Teams) 23<sup>rd</sup> / 32 (5th)

**Corwen** (Pairs) 17th/113 (3<sup>rd</sup>)

**Six Counties:** Edgar Foster Cup (24 Pairs) **1<sup>st</sup>**

**Midland Teams Challenge Bowl (11 Teams) 1<sup>st</sup>.**

## **CPL Results 2009 -2010**

### Autumn 2009

**Division 1** George Cuthbertson & Ian Handley

**Division 2** Brent Wormald & Peter Oldbury

**Division 3** Don Herbert & Nigel Wain

**Division 4** Davina Oddy & Marilyn Jones

**Division 5** Kath Lightfoot & Trudy Calero

### Spring 2010

George Cuthbertson & Ian Handley

Bill Hood & Nick Stevens

PatWatson & Marjorie Gilbertson

Ankush Khandelwal & Ang Shen Ting

## **BPL Results 2009-2010**

### Autumn 2009

**Division 1** Ali Immam & Abul Mostafa

**Division 2** Glyn Price & Roger Bryant

**Division 3** Graham S'-Brown & Pat Watson

**Division 4** Sheila Lewis & Tom Donoghue

**Division 5** Shaunagh Wand & Evelyn Whiteford

### Spring 2010

John Collin & Steve Wood

Sue & Geoff Morris

Sylvia & Alan Rose

Hui Yang & Mike O'Driscoll

John Walter & Wirenda Khorana

Appendix I contains a chart of the WCBA Competitions for the year.

There have been a few minor changes in terms of times and venues but the major change this year is:

## The Frank Cup

This teams of four competition has been very poorly attended for some years, and as it is the County's major teams competition we have decided on a re-vamp. It will now run on a Sunday (17<sup>th</sup> October) as a two session multiple teams Handicap event!

The handicap scale is:

Each player within a team will be assigned a handicap based on their performance during the previous season in the following events:

- Warwickshire Pairs League (WPL)
- Coventry Pairs League (CPL)
- Birmingham Pairs League (BPL)
- Warwickshire Teams League (WTL)
- Coventry Teams League (CTL)

Based on their final position in each of these events their handicap will be assigned as 0, 4, 8 or 12 IMPs **over 24 boards**. This will be applied pro rata for the number of boards played. Anyone playing in more than one event will be assigned the lowest handicap from a single event, i.e. if they played in both the WPL and CPL and the WPL gave a handicap of 4 but the CPL a handicap of 8 then their handicap would be 4.

WPL Handicaps	Division A top 15	0
	Division A bottom 5	4
	Division B top 10	4
	Division B bottom 10	8
	Division C	12
CPL Handicaps	Division 1	0
	Division 2	4
	Division 3	8
	Division 4	12
BPL Handicaps	Division 1	2
	Division 2	6
	Division 3	8
	Division 4	10
	Division 5	12

CTL Handicaps	Division1 top 4	0
	Division 1 bottom 4	4
	Division 2	4
	Division 3	8
	Division 4	10
	Division 5	12

WTL Handicaps	Division 1 top 4	0
	Division 1 bottom 4	4
	Division 2	8
	Division 3	12

Any player not competing in any of these events will be assigned a handicap by the Competitions Committee based on their knowledge of the player.

The approach to handicaps will be reviewed after the event using the experience gained.

We realise that everyone will think that their handicap is too low (I don't expect many will think it is too high!) and we may well adjust the scale in future as we gain experience. Please enter the event and enjoy beating the big boys (and girls)! Pre-entry please to Elayne as a team of 4, with what you think your handicap is so that we can check it. Pay on the day (£8pp, tea optional £4pp).

Wouldn't it be great to get back to 16 teams again (it's only 2 teams from each of the major clubs) and I hope this format will do it.

Prizes will be awarded to the top 3 teams with the winner being awarded the Frank Cup. The results will then be re-calculated, ignoring handicaps, to ascertain the qualifiers for the **Goodman Cup** (the top third) who will play on a knock out basis for the honour of representing the county in the prestigious national competition The Pachabo.

## Warwickshire Pairs League

From September the WPL will run on the **third Wednesday** of the month starting at **7:00pm** at WMBC. Divisions A, B & C will all play the same boards on the same night. A & B playing two 14 board matches and C five 5 board matches. There will be two promotions/demotions per each 5 session season.

There are places available in C but until current players in A & B send in their entries I cannot guarantee places in these divisions. All entries should be in by August 31<sup>st</sup> at the latest and the divisions will be finalised then.

It is a **condition of entry** that players provide their own substitutes if they cannot play. We have set up a message board on the WCBA website for pairs who want a "pair off" but we will still need to be informed when you have done so that we can re-assign.



Darren {assisted by one or two elves} will run the event and play this year using BridgeMates and automatically assigning, round in arrears, using Jeff Smith's scoring program. NB. Because of pair offs, computer scoring, and last minute changes we have decided to not publish assignments before players arrive. ***(The computer does it so much faster than us and nobody can argue with it!)***

The competition goes from strength to strength and this year we hope to get our maximum of three, ten table divisions! Get your entries in soon.

## **GARDEN CITIES**

This, teams of eight, qualifier will be held on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> of February 2011. Warwickshire, usually represented by Coventry, has traditionally done well in this Competition. Often we win but this year we had a tragedy and ONLY came second! Hold this date in your diary and **please** get your club to send a team this year maybe they'll select you!! (Clubs can enter two teams if they wish) It's a great day anyway, and it would be excellent to improve on last year's numbers. This year it's at CBC which is a splendid new venue and everyone will be made most welcome.

Remember the County pays the winners entry to the finals. **Entry:** £40/ team of 8, Teas £4.50/person.

## **CLUBS QUALIFYING HEATS**

The County runs three competitions with heats held at clubs. I hope your club is running a heat for the following:-

Mixed Pairs      Championship Pairs      Introductory Pairs

Keep an eye on your club notice board for dates!

## **BPL & CPL**

These two competitions continue to be very popular. The format is three 9 board each evening. Two seasons a year of 5 sessions with two promotions and demotions.

BPL runs at Moseley on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday at 7:00

CPL runs at C&NW on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at 7:00

There are limited places available so please contact:-

BPL	Elayne Meakin	☎ 0121 580 9877
CPL	John Pyner	☎ 02476 673998

## CLUB NEWS

### CBC Moves to a new site

Coventry Bridge Club has now moved into purpose built premises at Coventry & North Warwickshire Cricket Club where they are the Bridge Section of the Cricket Club, along with Squash, Tennis and Leisure sections. Our name will now be Coventry & N W Bridge Club.

The club has 40 tables with the rooms being flexible to provide the full 40 tables or teaching facilities along with separate rooms for matches. We have a busy programme which we will expand to daytime bridge as parking is now provided on site. There is also a resident Steward and Stewardess for the provision of refreshments as required. The Warwickshire AGM was held at the Club successfully in June and more Warwickshire events, including County matches, are in the calendar for next year.

Our duplicate sessions are Monday, Tuesday and Friday evenings at 7 o'clock and visitors are welcome. Find us at:

146a Binley Road, ☎: 02476 447014  
Coventry CV3 1HB

David Jones    President.

### Northfield Bridge Club

Northfield Bridge Club has flourished since moving to it's new playing venue at Weoley Castle Working Men's Club about a year ago. We have an ethos of tolerance and friendliness and have gained over 20 new members in this year and maintain 10-12 tables on Thursday evenings. Monday evening, our new playing session, has encouraged many inexperienced players to have a go and attracts about five tables. We have persuaded a number of club members to help to supervise the learner group so that they gain experience and contribute to the club meanwhile the learners get to know more members. This has reduced the fear of playing in the club proper and made the transition to playing with the 'big boys and girls' much easier. So far about 12 have had a go at and 6 have 'graduated' to, playing in the main room regularly.

We run various competitions throughout the year including a pairs ladder, a Butler scoring ladder, a handicap cup and seeded teams events. The Summer Teams was recently completed and the team of Les Smith, Kenneth Williams, Fran Robinson and Margaret Johnson were the winners.

Peter Nicholds    Chairman

### Kenilworth Bridge Club

We are happy to announce that Kenilworth Bridge Club is affiliating to the EBU.

## PLAYERS CORNER

### Steve Byrne


We regret to announce the death of Steve Byrne. Nearly all of you will know him, his cheerful presence in almost all County events, and national ones, added to the value of all events in which he took part. Personally, in the last 30 years in which I played, mainly as an opponent and sometimes as a partner, I know of no time in which he was not both a graceful opponent and partner. Such players are hard to replace and we would all do well to emulate his behaviour at the table. He will be missed.

**Susie Stockdale:-**

On a happier note Susie played in the British Ladies team who finished 5<sup>th</sup> in the European Championship. This qualified them for next years Venice Cup (The Ladies World Championship). Susie and her partner FIONA BROWN had one of the best analyses of the whole competition and we are proud that she competed in so many County Competitions. Again a graceful winner and an equally good loser (at least those few who have beaten her assure me).

**Inter-County League**

The Warwickshire team of **David Jones, Garry Watson, Mike Leese, Steve Wood, David Kenward, Roger Bryant, George Cuthbertson & Ian Handley** won the Midlands County Final. Congratulations to them all!

 0121 580 9877 & 07985 597 447

 [Mike.meakin@uwcub.net](mailto:Mike.meakin@uwcub.net)

*Elayne & Mike*