

Worcestershire Bridge News

December 2018

It's been a busy couple of months as the season has got underway since the last newsletter, so a bit of an update and also some news and reminders of coming events. And, of course, a Happy Christmas to all!

Learning Bridge

The September Fast-Track course at Worcester HoW College has gone well, with all players joining follow-up sessions in January; we are optimistic that most will be playing gentle sessions in clubs in the Spring. A further course following the same model, at the **Redditch** HoW College, is now recruiting for a January start. Word of Mouth has been the best source of recruitment for the courses, so if you know anyone wanting to learn, please direct them towards Mike Vetch: mike1958v@mail.com. Further South, **Pershore** DBC is running a Fast-Track beginners' course over the weekend of 2nd/3rd March 2019. Again, if you know anyone in the area wanting to learn, please point them to Alan Boyes - alan1pdbc@btinternet.com. The club is taking an innovative and technologically sophisticated (!!) approach to advertising the course – see the club's home page at <http://www.bridgewebs.com/pershore/>. Also in January, Richard Greenwood is starting another FT course near **Bewdley**, with places available at time of writing – contact Richard: rmgreenwood@talktalk.net; and Joyce Skelton is starting a Fast Track Beginners in Leigh Sinton, nr **Malvern**: contact her at joyce.skelton@sky.com. Good teaching plays a crucial role in ensuring that Bridge continues to thrive. If you know anyone wanting to learn the game who can't attend one of the courses above, please refer them to the "Learning Bridge" section of the County website <http://www.bridgewebs.com/worcestershire/>

County Inter-Club Teams

The Inter-Club Teams series got off to a great start on 23rd November at the Ombersley Memorial Hall. Based on the success of the previous year's competition, and taking note of feedback from the players, a Simple Systems Division has been introduced for the first time in addition to the Open Division, which has itself grown to include more matches than last season. The Simple Systems Division has attracted both EBU-affiliated and non-affiliated clubs and we are particularly pleased to see both enjoying themselves in a sociable environment. While we have no records of how many players repaired to one of the local pubs to discuss their exploits, there is sure to be an opportunity to relax over a drink after the next heat because it is to be held at the British Legion Club in Claines where there is a bar. Ridgeway BC currently lead the Simple Systems Division and Worcester 1 lead the Open Division.



Heat 1 of the Inter-Club Teams in Play

Forthcoming Events

There are two events on County nights in the immediate future that should attract local players and deserve a special mention. On Monday 17th December at Cutnall Green Village Hall we are holding our annual **Charity Teams** event. There will be no table money but everyone is invited to bring a small prize for the raffle, the proceeds of which this year are in aid of Sight Concern. If you intend to come, it would be helpful if you notify one of the County Committee (or see my contact details below) so that we make sure that we have sufficient wine, mince pies etc to go around.

In January (21st) we have the **County Mixed Pairs Championship**, again at Cutnall Green. This is always an enjoyable event, competitive yet friendly – perhaps mixing genders makes sure everyone is extra nice to their opponents and partners! If you'd like to play and want me to try to match-make, please let me know (see my details below) and I'll do my best!

Opting -Out

If you want to opt-out of these newsletters, please simply reply to my email, putting "Opt-Out" in the subject line.

Mike Willoughby – Worcestershire CBA Chair
e: Mike.willoughby@btinternet.com t: 0121 447 8283
w: <http://www.bridgewebs.com/worcestershire/>