

Worcestershire Bridge News

May 2018

This month an important message about the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) plus news about some local and national bridge events.

GDPR

Sorry, a cautionary note on this has to be first on the list this month. If you haven't filled in a consent form we're not legally allowed to send any more newsletters to you – this will be your last one! You should all have received, or be receiving, a blank form for completion. We need your permission to continue to send this newsletter, and other information, to you.

The Chairman's Cup

This was held on 2nd May at Worcester Bridge Club. Because it was intended for those relatively new to competitive bridge only fourteen boards were played, which also had the benefit that we could then chat about them afterwards. I think it's fair to say that everyone enjoyed the event which resulted in joint winners on 60.71% Well done to Neil Whipp & Jane Henry and Jane Simpson & Diane Coultas.

Improving Your Bridge – How Good Are You Really?

Or even how good are any of us? A lot of us tend to play the majority of our bridge at the same club or at least against the same people and consequently we measure our performance only against those people. If we want to get a better measure of how good we really are we need to play against people outside our immediate circle – which is enjoyable anyway! That's one of the reasons that the County has set up the inter-club teams-of-four event. This coming year (starting in Autumn) we hope to have a separate division for clubs that are not affiliated to the EBU. If you belong to a non-affiliated club or group and you're interested in testing your ability against similar players from other clubs or groups, please drop me an email (see my email address below). The exact format depends on the number of teams but it will probably involve three Friday evenings over winter – there is no requirement for EBU membership and it need not be the same players from your club or group that play each time.

AGM

A final last minute reminder about the AGM which is on Monday 21st May. All our members are invited and the meeting will be followed by a free Handicap Pairs event.

Bridge Holidays

The last word on this topic since most people have probably arranged their summer holidays by now. This is an interesting one, though, because it's a winter one and comes highly recommended (based on fourteen years experience!) – Alpine Bridge (<https://www.alpinebridge.co.uk/>). As the name suggests, the focus is mainly on a combination of bridge and skiing though there are other options, taking in wine and walking, as well.

England Juniors – Well Done on Recent Successes and Good Luck in the World Championships

A common perception of bridge is that it's not a game for all ages – and it's very wrong! The England Junior Teams in all age categories (Under 16, Under 21, Under 26 Open and Under 26 Women) have qualified to play in the World Youth Championships to be held in Suzhou, China in August (<http://www.worldbridge.org/competitions/wbf-championships/youth-teams/>). The teams qualified through excellent performances in the European Championships in July 2017 and their success is a tribute not only to the efforts of the players but also those of the coaches who have worked with the teams for some years. We're very lucky that the future of the game in this country is in safe hands and, for those interested, we'd recommend watching some of the Championships on VuGraph on Bridge Base Online (www.bridgebase.com) and seeing how you match up to the youngsters!

Forthcoming County Events

Summer is usually a quiet time in the County but it gives us a chance to plan our bridge activities when the evenings start to draw in. Here are a few dates (all subject to final confirmation) to consider: Mon June 11th – Seniors (at least 60 years old) and Veterans (at least 70 years old) Pairs; Mon 10th September – Men's and Ladies' Pairs; 18th-21st September – Oxford Festival of Bridge; Mon 3rd September – first heat of the Grand Prix Teams; Sunday 22nd October – Irene Allen Swiss Pairs (no EBU or County Membership required).

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