

Worcestershire Bridge News

May 2019

As summer approaches there is something of a lull in competitive bridge. However, as you see below, there are a number of enjoyable social events being organized.

Chairman's Cup

The Chairman's Cup is an annual competition open to those who have been playing for less than five years. This year's event was held at the British Legion Club at Claines on Wednesday 1st May with 6 ½ tables made up of a wide range of players, some of whom had been playing for only a few months, coming from the Worcester, Redditch, Malvern and Martley areas. Play was at a gentle pace with fourteen boards being played over about three hours. Despite the gentle nature of the event, it was closely contested with the eventual winners (pictured right) only becoming clear on the very last board. The event was enjoyed by all, this being underlined by the return of many of last year's participants, including Eiron Evans, whose performance improved from finishing last in 2018 to finishing first this year. A fast learner indeed!



Dai Warren and Eiron Evans – Winners of the Chairman's Cup

Café Bridge

Café Bridge has become increasingly popular in the last few years, not least because it is enjoyed by players of all abilities ranging from beginners to internationals. This year sees Bromsgrove Bridge Club's fourth café bridge event, which will be on Thursday 3rd October. As usual, players will move between cafes in Barnt Green, playing a few hands of bridge in each and pausing, of course, for lunch in whatever café they find themselves at lunchtime. In previous years they have had eight tables but, as the popularity of the event has grown, some twelve tables are expected. Keep the date in your diary and keep an eye on the Bromsgrove Bridge Club website to avoid disappointment (<http://www.bridgewebs.com/bromsgrove/>).

Learning to Play Bridge

We frequently hear of people who would "like to play bridge but don't know where to start!" While there have been pockets of high quality education around the County, it has not always been at times that are convenient for, in particular, those who work during the day. Mike Vetch has recently established evening classes at Heart of Worcestershire College in Worcester and Redditch. An important factor in the success of the classes has been the contribution of local clubs in providing opportunities for learners to go on to gain "gentle" experience in those clubs before exposing themselves to regular competitive bridge. Pershore Bridge Club has also recently run an intensive weekend course and participants are now playing in the "Gentle Bridge" section of the club in preparation for full membership when they feel ready for it. We are hoping to launch very soon a range of opportunities across the County for recent newcomers to the game to play under supervision of experienced County players. If you know people who want high quality learning from expert players with good teaching skills, please ask them to contact the County Education Officer, Mike Vetch, at Mike1958V@mail.com

Do You Want to Improve Your Bridge – News From Bewdley Bridge Club

In the March Newsletter we mentioned that Bewdley Bridge Club were planning to run some events combining both social and educational elements – greatly enjoyed by all by the sound of it! The Club staged its first ever Sunday Bridge event on 28 April. This event comprised a bridge seminar for 22 people in the morning followed by an excellent buffet lunch. In the afternoon a duplicate session of 24 boards was played. The seminar considered the excellent and engaging topic of take-out and negative doubles and was expertly facilitated by Richard Greenwood and Eileen Oakley.

The event was a great success with attendance exceeding expectations. In the light of the success of this event Bewdley Bridge Club will develop a programme of future Sunday events to which the wider bridge community in Worcestershire will be most welcome to attend. Keep an eye on the Bewdley Bridge Club Website as well as this Newsletter for details!

Opting -Out

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