

Worcestershire Bridge News

January 2019

This month we have an update on the Inter-Club Teams series and some news about changes to County Night on Mondays and about forthcoming competitions and events.

County Inter-Club Teams

The second heat of the Inter-Club Teams League took place on Friday 25th Jan. Amazingly, there is no clear leader in either division. In the Simple Systems Division, only eight Victory Points separate the top four teams and the Open Division is even closer with only **three** Victory Points separate the top three teams. The third heat will be held on Friday 22nd February at the Royal British Legion at Claines. As announced last Friday, unless the Feb heat is disrupted by bad weather and so the April heat is needed, a Swiss Teams competition will be held on Friday 5th April. Teams from both divisions will compete on an equal footing in this but, in addition to prizes for the members of the winning team overall, irrespective of which division they have played in, there will be prizes for the team that finishes highest from the other division. This promises to be a sociable and enjoyable evening, enabling players to play against and mix with their counterparts in both divisions. Full results of each session, together with hand records can be found on the County website. Current overall rankings for each division are under the Competitions 2018/19 tab (<http://www.bridgewebs.com/worcestershire/>)

Changes to County Nights

County nights on Mondays at the Cutnall Green Memorial Hall are open to all County members and continue to attract good attendances and offer events of a variety of different formats – match pointed pairs, IMPed pairs and teams. A recent survey of members identified that, although members liked the friendly environment, a formal tea break would be welcome. What also came out of the survey was that members would **not** welcome either a later finish or a reduction in the number of boards. Consequently, from Monday 4th Feb onwards, we will be introducing a tea break. In order to ensure that the finish time is unchanged, we will start five minutes earlier, at 7.15, and play each round approximately one minute quicker. We hope County Members will continue to both enjoy the highest standard of bridge in the area and also enjoy the tea/coffee! In order to ensure a timely finish time for each round, and the evening, we have a few suggestions for players: -

- Only discuss the hands at the end of each round, not at the end of each board, and only if you have time before the end of the round. And please take care that the neighbouring tables can't hear – they may still have to play the board!
- As opening leader, your first priority is to consider and make your opening lead, not to enter the contract on your scoresheet. Similarly, if you are dummy, put your hand on the table immediately the opening lead is made before entering the contract on your scoresheet or Bridgemate.
- If the outcome of a hand is absolutely clear, do consider making a claim – but only if you're sure!

Further guidance will be offered on each night.

Forthcoming Events

We have three very important events before Easter! On 3rd March, we will be holding the annual **County Pairs Championship**. This is a two session event with, as usual, one of Julie's substantial and splendid lunches at half time (around 1.30). It is open to all County members and full details are on the County website. On 8th April we have a **Pro-Am Pairs** (details on the website under the "Entry Forms" tab). This is always a fun event with refreshments and a discussion of the boards afterward. It is open to both members and non-members of the County but pre-registration is essential so that we can match up numbers: details of registration can be found on the County website. Finally, on Monday 15th April we have a **Swiss Pairs** event.

New Year Resolutions

Players' conduct at County Nights and Events has been exemplary this year, with several visitors commenting on how friendly the more regular players are. However, we must continue to remember that bridge is a game played for enjoyment and that it is, therefore, important that we maintain these high standards. A Happy New Bridge Year to all!

Opting -Out

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

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