

# Worcestershire Bridge News

## November 2017

There are some items that will be of interest to our members so we've decided to send out another newsletter before Christmas. Please continue to send any comments that you may have or material that you might want included to me at [mike.willoughby@btinternet.com](mailto:mike.willoughby@btinternet.com)

### Malvern Congress

Despite a rather chilly Saturday (not to be repeated!) the new venue, Royal Grammar School in Worcester, proved a great success and the feedback has been universally positive. It was great to have a No-fear section and good to see players feeling able to move up from last year's No-fear to the main sections this year. Our thanks go to the Congress Committee, Barbara Griffiths, Martin Gill and Mike Vetch, for all their hard work.

### Zia

Zia Mahmood is possibly the only bridge player in the world who is instantly recognized just by his first name and the Gloucestershire County Association have pulled off a considerable coup by inviting him to deliver a seminar on Friday December 8<sup>th</sup>. For anyone interested, details can be found on the Gloucestershire website <http://www.bridgewebs.com/cheltenham/>.

### Midland County Congress

The perfect way to get over Christmas – play one or more sessions of the congress at West Midlands Bridge Club on the weekend of 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> January. Details at <http://www.bridgewebs.com/midlandcc/>

### County Events

The County Mixed Pairs will be held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January at Cutnall Green. This is always an enjoyable event, with some unfamiliar partnerships often contributing to some “interesting” results. If you're a regular attendee at County nights, please make sure you book a partner of the opposite gender well in advance – they are usually in great demand! If you're considering making your debut at a County night, this is the ideal opportunity to do so in a sociable atmosphere. The Partnership Message Board on the County website provides a forum for recruiting the ideal partner.

### Remember Where You're Playing – It's not in the Gold Cup Finals!

Another idea that Gloucestershire County Association have come up with is their, “The Director is Your Friend” campaign. This puts forward the very sensible idea that sorting out problems at the bridge table is facilitated by early involvement of the Director, which should be welcomed, rather than resented, as it is in some places, though thankfully not in our County. However, as the focus of the majority of players is increasingly on the social benefits of the game, we would remind everyone how important these are. As the season of goodwill approaches, it's important to remind ourselves that most (all!) of us are not playing in the finals of the Gold Cup, we're playing in our local club and ensuring that we do our best to make that as enjoyable as possible is crucial to the continuing success of those clubs.

### Venue Project

The Venue Project continues to make progress and the success of a permanent home for bridge in surrounding Counties reminds us how much of a difference the success of this project would make in our County. We will continue to provide updates as they become available.

### Healey Cup

This went right down to the wire with Worcester 1 overtaking Droitwich on the very last board. Droitwich had a flat board, the 5D sacrifice escaping undoubled at both tables. Worcester gained 13 IMPs by making 4S at one table while their opponents bid on to 5S over the 5D sacrifice. Bridge can be a cruel, as well as exciting, game at times!

### Christmas Charity Swiss Teams

Finally, we invite all our members to the Christmas Charity Swiss Teams will be held at Cutnall Green on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December. Bring your own mince pies and mulled wine to make this an enjoyable sociable event.