

# Worcestershire Bridge News

## October 2017

In line with the County Committee's policy of exploring and doing our best to meet the needs of our clubs, we will periodically, and hopefully frequently, be sending out a Newsletter which includes news of what County and Clubs are doing which might be useful for you. This is the first one! Please 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)

### Club Chairs' Meeting

Twelve Clubs were represented at the meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> September and some very valuable thoughts were shared including, most importantly, ways in which the County Association could support player recruitment, education and improvement. We hope to be able to report progress in further editions of this newsletter.

### Facebook

While the County website will always be the primary means of formal communication with our members, we would also draw your attention to our Facebook page where we can publicise any club or county events that you make us aware of – just let us know! It's freely accessible whether or not you use Facebook – just paste this link into your browser or Google Facebook + Worcestershire Contract Bridge:-

<https://www.facebook.com/Worcestershire-Contract-Bridge-Association-1494731230853766/>

This page is in addition to the Facebook Group that we run to discuss bidding and play problems – only accessible if you're on Facebook unfortunately, though. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/161904477187432/>

### County Championship Pairs Qualification

We asked you to consider running a qualifying heat for the Championship Pairs a couple of months ago. If you have designated one of your club sessions as a qualifying heat, please let us know and we'll publicise it.

### Rubber Bridge Competition

This has proved very popular over the years and entries for this year have now closed, raising over £500 for charity.

### Venue Project

We are providing a brief update on this because two important third parties, Sport England and the English Cricket Board, have now become enthused about the project and are prepared to contribute funds making the project far more viable. Experiences elsewhere have been that a permanent home for bridge can stimulate competitive bridge, primarily through providing facilities for teaching and development that are accessible during the day as well as the evening. These lead to an increase in the numbers participating in competitive bridge that benefits all clubs in the surrounding area. See, for example, the EBU website article about Stamford Bridge club <http://www.ebu.co.uk/node/2792>.

Regular updates will continue to be available on the County website and in further editions of this newsletter.

### Malvern Congress

As usual, this will be held on the last weekend in October. Most, if not all, of you will already be aware of this – the reason for including it here is that we are repeating the successful "No-Fear" sessions that we held last year and, in line with our intention of bringing players into the game, we would ask you to bring these sessions to the attention of anyone that you know who might be interested in "dipping a toe into the water"

### Café Bridge

The Worcester BC Café Bridge event on 21<sup>st</sup> September was a great success – see the BBC Hereford and Worcester Interview with Mike Vetch on our Facebook Page (see above). The event that Bromsgrove BC ran in Barnt Green was also very successful and raised over £750 for the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity.