

Worcestershire Bridge News

September 2025

As summer nears its end, we're pleased to say that there are a lot of exciting bridge events for all ages and abilities available to keep you busy over winter!

The Malvern Congress

Once again the Congress will be running at the Grange site of the Royal Grammar School in Worcester on the 25th and 26th of October. Although it has traditionally been viewed as the preserve of the more experienced players it is well worth noting that both the pairs and teams events are run on the Swiss format in which each match is played between players having similar cumulative scores. Consequently, players will find their own level rather than being pitched against players better or worse than themselves. So, even if you're relatively new to the game, you'll be competing against players of similar abilities. Why not give it a go? Details can be found here https://www.bridgewebs.com/cgi-bin/bwor/bw.cgi?club=worcestershireshire&pid=display_page115

Café Bridge in Aid of the Stroke Association

Café Bridge is a concept that has grown significantly in popularity over the past few years and particularly since the pandemic and lockdown ended and players were keen to see all their old, and also new, friends. The idea is that a few hands of bridge are played in a number of cafés or hostelrys and lunch is taken wherever each pair happens to be at that time. It's sociable, it's fun, everyone has a good time - and it raises money for charity. We have a number of these events taking place across the county in the coming weeks so get the dates in your diary now!

Barnt Green Café Bridge	Thursday, 9th October. Contact Richard Jephcott (richardjephcott@me.com)
Pershore Café Bridge	Tuesday, 21st October. Contact Jonathan Morton (jonathan.morton@btinternet.com)
Worcester Café Bridge	Wednesday 12 th November. Contact Yvette Waide (yvettewaide@hotmail.com)

Introduction to Cards in Heightington

Bewdley Bridge Club are running a very interesting, and free, event mainly for children but available to children of all ages. It will be on Wednesday 29th October at Heightington Village Hall and two sessions are available: 10 am to 12.30 pm or 1.00 pm to 3.30 pm. Bring your children or grandchildren and come along yourself! Further details are available from Eileen Oakley (eileen@oakleydevelopment.co.uk).

County Leagues

There are two open divisions and one "No Fear" division in the Worcestershire County leagues which run from, roughly, October until April. Applications for all divisions are invited and we are particularly keen for new players to take part in the No Fear division because it will both bring a new experience to their game and will also enable them to meet other players. More details are available from Nick Forward (nforward1@outlook.com).

We are also investigating the possibility of running a mini-league over a very limited number of boards for very much less experienced players. Please contact Yvette Waide (Yvettewaide@hotmail.com) if you know anyone who might be interested in participating.

County Members' Success!

The big news is that John Sansom and Clive Owen won the Corwen Trophy this year. This is a very tough pairs competition, with participants comprising, roughly, the top three pairs in each County. It was last won by a Worcestershire Pair, Simon Harrison and Arthur Williams, in 1987. Well done John and Clive.

Inter-Club Teams Competition

The first heat of the Inter-Club Teams takes place on Friday 17th October and so clubs are, no doubt, getting their teams organized already. Before lockdown we had twelve teams taking part, in two divisions, with non-EBU-affiliated clubs being well represented. As we have returned to playing Face to Face, we have worked our way back up to six teams taking part from five clubs. It would be great to see more clubs, especially non-EBU-affiliated ones, taking part. If you're interested in playing, please get in touch with Yvette Waide, whose email address is as above.

Learning Pathways for Players

Worcestershire has a number of beginners courses running for people to learn bridge – encourage your family and friends to learn. We are also developing various opportunities for players to continue to develop after their initial courses. That makes the transition to playing in clubs and leagues easier and more enjoyable. More information will be becoming available on the County website (https://www.bridgewebs.com/cgi-bin/bwor/bw.cgi?club=worcestershireshire&pid=display_page15) or on the County Facebook page (click on the logo below – it's just a page, you don't need to be on Facebook).

Worcestershire Contract Bridge Association www.bridgewebs.com/worcestershire

