

# Worcestershire Bridge News

## August 2019

As summer comes to an end we can look forward to a number of events which will be of interest to all bridge players in the County of Worcestershire, irrespective of their standard or whether or not they belong to EBU-affiliated clubs. Please take a moment to look at and consider the opportunities below.

### Café Bridge

Café Bridge is probably unique in offering entertainment to every level of player from beginner to expert – the relaxed and friendly atmosphere never fails to ensure that, while there is keen competition, the social aspects of the game prevail. The basic idea is that players move from café to café, playing a few hands in each and taking a well-earned lunch at whatever café they happen to be in at lunchtime. We're aware of two café bridge events in the near future. Worcester BC is holding one in Worcester on 12<sup>th</sup> September (See <https://www.bridgewebs.com/worcester/>) and Bromsgrove BC is running one in Barnt Green on 3<sup>rd</sup> October (see <https://www.bridgewebs.com/bromsgrove/>). The serious part of each day is that proceeds go to charity BUT please make sure you bring your sense of humour – it will be required.... Don't be shy – give it a try!



### Forthcoming Events – for club players

The County's most popular event, the Annual Grand Prix Teams series, starts at Cutnall Green Memorial Hall on Monday 2nd September. All County Members are invited to form a team and participate. Although the format has changed slightly this year, we are still restricting the number of the more experienced players in any one team so that every team will have a chance of winning.

### Forthcoming Events – for less experienced players

We also run a number of events for less experienced players. The Irene Allen Pairs has run successfully for many years and this year will be held at Ombersley Memorial Hall on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October. It is open to all, irrespective of whether or not you are a member of the County Association. The only restriction is that, if you collect Masterpoints, you must have less than 25,000 and be below the rank of Regional Master. More than 80% of our members are, therefore, eligible and, since non-members are also invited, it should once again prove to be an enjoyable and popular event with, as usual, **an excellent lunch!** This is an ideal event for those players who want to try an event outside their usual club environment without encountering any of the more experienced players in the County. What's not to like – come along and have a sociable and enjoyable, but not too taxing, day.

For those contemplating a move up to County level bridge at any time in the future and want to see what it's like, we have an Invite-a-Guest evening on Monday October 14<sup>th</sup>. We usually have an interesting cross-section of players at this event so if you'd like someone to "invite" you, please get in touch!

### Forthcoming Events – for everyone, both experienced and less so!

We are expecting a range of players from experienced internationals to complete newcomers at the Malvern Congress (held, obviously (!!!), in North Worcester this year). Therefore we have both Open sections and, running alongside those on the Saturday, Newcomers sections, for which there is no requirement for EBU Membership. The atmosphere is always welcoming and the splendid meal that is available between sessions provides an opportunity to socialize and, if you wish, discuss the bridge. Details of both sections can be found under the "Malvern Congress" tab on the County website (see website address below).

### Player Development

In response to suggestions from County Members we have piloted a programme of Player Development evenings – effectively seminars which are led by County Players – over the last few months. In doing so we have recognized how these can be made more effective and so are introducing a number of changes for the forthcoming sessions restarting in September. Details will shortly be available.

### Spread the Word!

If you are reading this, you are by definition a current rather than a potential player and, therefore, one of our best ambassadors to grow the game. This Autumn there will be a wider than ever range of Beginners classes in the County, with courses planned in Malvern, Ombersley/Cookhill, Bewdley and Stourbridge. All of these have spaces available at the time of writing. TELL YOUR FRIENDS and get them playing this wonderful game! And please point them to the WCBA website "Learning Bridge" page, where they can find contacts and details.

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