

Worcestershire Bridge News

February 2024

It's been a while since the last newsletter and so we need some big news – and we have it! The Festival of Bridge will take place across the UK in September 2024 – see below. There is also news of some forthcoming competitions.

The Festival of Bridge

While the EBU is organising this event, it is intended to raise the profile of the game so that more people will become interested in learning, or returning to, bridge. All clubs, whether or not affiliated to the EBU, should, therefore, benefit from a greater number of players.

The Festival will run from the 9th to the 15th of September and will raise money for Cancer Research UK. More details can be found at <https://www.ebu.co.uk/festival>. One of the Festival Managers for Worcestershire is Richard Jephcott – please get in touch with him if you can contribute any ideas or effort to raising the profile of our game. While it is still early days, it looks likely that, amongst other things, Café Bridge events will be run around the County – look out for details on the Worcestershire Bridge website (<https://www.bridgewebs.com/worcestershire/>) and the Worcestershire Contract Bridge Association Facebook page (see the Facebook logo below).

Competitions

There are a number of County and National events coming up. Nationally, there is the 9-High Swiss Pairs for players having an NGS of 9 or less and this will be held on Saturday 2nd March and the audience, as the name suggests, is pairs having a combined NGS of 9 or less. Worcestershire have won the last two events in this series, largely due to the efforts of Bewdley Bridge Club Members, and we are very keen to complete a hat trick before the summer break. Details and an entry form can be found here <https://www.bridgewebs.com/midlandcc/>

Within the County we have the Ron Allen Trophy for club teams of eight, which is also on Saturday 2nd March, and the County Championship Pairs on Sunday 17th March. Both events are primarily aimed at more experienced players although we would be pleased to welcome those new to competitive bridge. Entry forms for both are here <http://tinyurl.com/yc4heb9p>

Learning Bridge

Bridge teaching continues to thrive across the county. The “Learn Bridge in a Weekend” courses, the latest of which was held in January, attracted a good attendance and those players are continuing to learn in a variety of ways that are appropriate to their needs and circumstances. Elsewhere, a number of clubs, including Bewdley BC, Stourbridge BC and Worcester BC (please pardon any omissions!) continue to provide teaching either online or face-to-face at various levels.

Further Beginners' courses are planned so if you know anyone who may be interested in learning our fascinating game, please ask them to get in touch with me (contact details are at the bottom of this newsletter) and we will try to direct them to the most appropriate place.

Malvern Congress – Save the Date!

The Malvern Congress was once again a great success last October, with 32 tables in play on the first day and 33 on the second.

In addition to the two Swiss events, Pairs and Teams, a Newcomers competition attracted a number of recent learners from across the County and beyond. Consequently, this will become a permanent feature of the congress. This year's congress will again be held at the Royal Grammar School Grange site, just North of Worcester, and it will be on 26th and 27th October. Make a note now!



*Swiss Teams Winners, Denis and Kathy Talbot,
Jackie Fairclough and Graham Orsmond*

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