

Worcestershire Bridge News

July 2019

Summer always offers a chance to take a bit of a break from competitive bridge, if you're that way inclined, and play with some new people when your regular partners are on holiday! It's also a chance, though, to plan for the grey days of winter and start to assemble your team and plan for next season.

A New County Chair!

The County Chair has a term of office of two years and Barbara Griffiths took up the position in May. Barbara is a founder member of Bromsgrove Bridge Club and remains Treasurer of the Club. Her commitment to that club underlines the County Association's increasing emphasis on the importance on supporting play in the County's clubs as well as the more competitive events in the County.



Barbara Griffiths, County Chair

Next Season's Teams Competitions – Start Planning Now!

If you think these aren't for you, we'd ask you to please think again – there is a range of competitions across the County and something for EVERYONE who enjoys playing bridge.

The longstanding Championship Teams is a knockout competition that continues to be popular and is open to all Members who have Worcestershire as their County of primary allegiance. The winning team qualifies for the Inter-County Pachabo Cup and our County's team finished fourth out of twenty-nine teams this year.

In the County League competition, matches are generally played in team members' houses and the atmosphere is always very sociable. There are three open divisions in the league and teams are promoted and relegated each season. In addition there is a "No-Fear" division and we are expecting that, as more newcomers get into the game as a result of the County's programme of education and as former players return, there will be an additional No-Fear division this year. Anyone interested in playing in any of the divisions is asked to get in touch with Sue Lane, the League Secretary, on 01684 561308.

The Inter-Club League has proved extremely popular since it was introduced five years ago and it is played over three or, possibly, four evenings, depending on the number of teams, over winter. In the past year it has grown as the Simple Systems Division has been added to the Open Division. A Swiss Teams competition was held on the final evening last year and this proved extremely popular – possibly because wine and soft drinks were served after the bridge..... We hope that even more clubs will send teams to represent them this year so, if you're interested to know more, please get in touch with me (see contact details below).

Gentle Bridge

As we indicated in our previous newsletter, the County's growing education programme has resulted in an increasing number of players wanting an easy and gentle route into club, and possibly more competitive, bridge. In response to this, a number of the clubs in the County are participating in an initiative to provide as many opportunities as possible for these players to play at convenient times and in convenient locations as well as in their home clubs. This initiative enables players to progress, if they wish to do so, at their own pace and according to their own ambitions. Details can be found under the "LEARNING BRIDGE" tab on the WCBA website (<https://www.bridgewebs.com/worcestershire/>) or contact Mike Vetch at Mike1958V@mail.com

Learning to Play!

Also highlighted in our previous newsletter was the likelihood that a number of beginners' classes would start in September. If you have friends who would like to learn the game from experienced players who have been trained to teach the game effectively, please put them in touch with the County's Education Officer, Mike Vetch, at Mike1958V@mail.com

The French Connection

Just in case anyone thought that bridge was only played in England, a party from Worcester Bridge Club visited Bridge-Club Romorantin in the Loire Valley in early June to check! There is far too much to reproduce here so if you'd like to see more, please visit <https://www.bridgewebs.com/worcester/>

Opting -Out

If you would like to opt-out of these newsletters, please simply reply to my email, putting "Opt-Out" in the subject line.

Mike Willoughby – Worcestershire CBA Vice-Chair

e: Mike.willoughby@btinternet.com

t: 0121 447 8283

w: <http://www.bridgewebs.com/worcestershire/>