

Worcestershire Bridge News

October 2019

As we move towards autumn and winter, activities requiring good weather become more limited. Fortunately, bridge does not require such good weather and the number of opportunities to play and learn the game increases at this time of year. We highlight a few below.

Café Bridge

First, though, we have a report of a successful and enjoyable Café Bridge event. Worcester Bridge Club organized bridge and, most importantly, an excellent lunch and afternoon tea and cake in three “cafes” in Worcester City Centre – Bolero, Elgars and The Pheasant – with players rotating between them. Mike Vetch, running the event, had results out almost immediately after it was finished. Although it was very close at the top with three pairs in contention coming into the final round, Rosie Cannon and Sue Tadman secured the top spot – well done them! Not only was the event greatly enjoyed, Acorns Hospice benefited to the tune of some £200 from the success of the event.



Sunday Seminar, Lunch and Bridge Session

Richard Greenwood and his team of helpers from Bewdley Bridge Club have been extremely successful in attracting new members to the club by running courses for beginners and improvers on an ongoing basis. The club added a Sunday session in April and, building on the success of that event, it is continuing its series of events that combine the three essential ingredients above. The April event attracted seven tables, attracting players that were not members of the club as well as club members, and further events over the winter months will continue to be open to all bridge players across the County. The next one will take place on Sunday 6th October – keep an eye on the club's website as the schedule for future events in this series is announced. This is yet another demonstration of events within the County that extend beyond simple bridge sessions and provide added enjoyment and social opportunities as well as useful learning.

From Classroom to Clubroom

Earlier this year, and even before Christmas, Pershore Bridge Club's Alan and Liz Boyes and other members of the club worked very hard to organize and run a weekend bridge course and recruit local residents for it (see picture to the right!). The course was followed by a series of “Gentle Bridge” sessions to get the newcomers used to club play. The result of this considerable amount of effort is that of the sixteen students, all have continued to play bridge either socially or at various clubs. At the Pershore Club itself, it has resulted in an increase of twelve members, nine of whom play regularly. The club has recently confirmed its next “Learn To Play Bridge In a Weekend” course will be held at the end of February 2020 - details on their web site. Great News!



Forthcoming Events

Our previous newsletter drew your attention to a number of events being held across the County in October and November. The Malvern Congress has sections for both newcomers to the game and more experienced players – details are on the County website. Other events include the Healey Cup on 17th November and the Inter-Club League, starting on 22nd November. Further details and entry forms are included with this newsletter and are also available on the County website.

Bridge Courses

In addition to the course run by Pershore Bridge Club to which we referred above and to the courses run by Bewdley Bridge Club on an ongoing basis, courses are now running at Droitwich Bridge Club. All of these courses are taught by EBU Teaching Association Members and demonstrate the commitment to high quality teaching within the County. Further good news is that we expect to be able to announce further courses, also run by English Bridge Teachers Association members, in our next newsletter which will, of course, result in more people playing in our clubs. Don't forget that there are regular Gentle Bridge Sessions across the County – details at <https://tinyurl.com/y4barcra>

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