

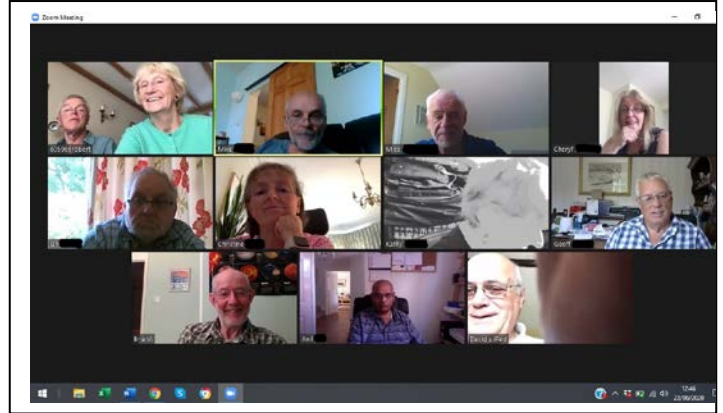
Worcestershire Bridge News

October 2020

As summer draws to an end, we're all looking forward to having more time to be able to visit our local bridge clubs. Oh, but wait..... Yes, it's true that lockdown has taken its toll on face to face play but the online platforms are offering more and more facilities, in particular virtual clubrooms, and it's now the case that quite a lot of people are playing more than they ever have done. With the advent of winter, we believe that trend is set to continue. So in this edition we draw attention to some of the exciting things that our clubs are doing to ensure that you are able to enjoy a game of bridge with people that you know – or might get to know if you paid a visit, most clubs being happy to welcome visitors. Of course, if you're happy to play against strangers, or like to do that as well, sites like Bridge Club Live and BridgeBase Online offer a variety of options.

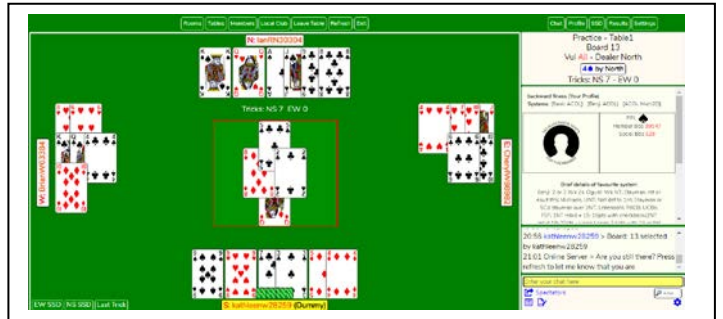
Worcester Bridge Club

A number of Club Chairs were very quick to set up games for their members when lockdown started and Worcester was among the first. Worcester BC now offers online a pairs league and a teams league for which players arrange convenient times with their opponents to play their matches. There has also been a Tuesday morning social session even before lockdown. The club has now added a virtual club night on alternate Wednesday evenings. Here, you will play online against other club members and visitors and your scores will be compared against their scores. It is likely that Zoom sessions will soon be offered afterwards, as is already the case for the Tuesday morning social sessions and as Bewdley Bridge Club already do, to discuss the hands or just to catch up with old friends. Visitors always welcome, just contact Mike Vetch at Mike1958v@gmail.com or visit the club's website for further details at www.bridgewebs.com/worcester



Bewdley Bridge Club

From the word go (in lockdown terms, of course!), Bewdley Bridge Club has focused on club sessions on their regular evenings rather than on leagues. This had the significant advantage that, right from the start, a Zoom session could be arranged afterwards. The sessions have evolved from, as I am sure the members would agree, a slightly ad hoc and very enjoyable approach initially to a fully-fledged virtual club, Bewdley having been the first club in the County to adopt this new facility. The club sessions run on Wednesday and Thursday evenings and visitors are very welcome to play in these sessions. In addition, there is an improvers session on Monday afternoons which is open to any players anywhere in the County who want to practise their game as they move from beginners to, well, improvers! Contact David Halford, Chairman, or find details of these sessions at www.bridgewebs.com/bewdley/



Bredon Bridge Club

Bredon Bridge Club have teamed up with their near neighbours, Tewkesbury Bridge Club, and play on Wednesday and Friday evenings over twelve to twenty-four boards. In contrast to Worcester and Bewdley Bridge Clubs, who play on Bridge Club Live, Bredon plays on BridgeBase Online, which has the advantage of being, at present, a free site for informal matches. You can find details at www.bridgewebs.com/bredon/home.html

Droitwich Bridge Club

Like Worcester BC, Droitwich BC is running a virtual club on Bridge Club Live. However, Droitwich runs every week on a Tuesday evening. Visitors are welcome and details can be found at www.bridgewebs.com/droitwich/ or mail Eddy Blackburn at blackedd@hotmail.co.uk

Ridgeway Bridge Club

Ridgeway are planning to run a virtual club on Monday evenings and will welcome visitors. Look out for details at www.bridgewebs.com/ridgeway/

County Bridge

The Worcestershire County Club also runs a virtual club on Bridge Club Live. This is on alternate Monday evenings in the weeks that Worcester BC is not running on a Wednesday. The County has also entered the Midlands Counties Online League, the first match being played against Leicestershire on Sunday 11th October. We entered a team of eight into each of the three divisions. Inevitably there were a few minor teething troubles but overall everything went smoothly. Although Leicestershire won in all three divisions, they are an extremely strong county and their margins of victory were not large and so we were very pleased with the result.

Finally...Congratulats to Pershore Bridge Club

Congratulations to Pershore BC and to Alan and Liz Boyes. The club has recently celebrated its 20th Anniversary. Even in these difficult times, members were able to thank Alan and Liz for all their hard work over the years. Alan is running improvers sessions with notes and quizzes and club members are continuing to play in various pairs and teams events. Find details at www.bridgewebs.com/pershore/



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