

Worcestershire Bridge News

August 2024

There have been some notable successes by Worcestershire players in the last few months but the big news is that some of the dates for the Festival of Bridge in September have been announced. See below and please get them into your diary and save the dates!

The Festival of Bridge in aid of Cancer Research

We are delighted that both EBU-affiliated and non-affiliated clubs in the County are taking up the invitation to do something special during the EBU's National Festival of Bridge. Festival Events in the county are taking place in the first two weeks of September. Please look on the WCBA Website (see the address below) and on the Worcestershire Contract Bridge Association Facebook page (see the Facebook logo below) for events across the county that you may want to join in. If your club is organising an event/ making your regular club evening something special please let us know so that we can publicise it on the WCBA website and Facebook page.

Some key dates of which we are currently aware are:-

- Thursday 5th Sept - Pershore Cafe Bridge (details to follow shortly)
- Sat 7th Sept - Worcester Bridge Club and the WCBA are running an Innovative Bridge Event to publicise our game and to encourage people to learn to play or resume playing. This is an opportunity for players of all levels to be involved for an hour or more, playing bridge in an interesting and exciting variety of venues around Worcester
- Wednesday 11th Sept: Worcester Cafe Bridge. Tickets will be available to non-members from 31/07/24. See <https://tinyurl.com/4fxkbyma> for details.
- Thursday 12th Sept: Barnt Green Cafe Bridge – See <https://tinyurl.com/3kcphpav> for details. We have also had some good publicity for the Festival in The Village magazine – see <https://tinyurl.com/dvu37ccd>

There is a lot of fun to be had and, in addition to raising money for Cancer Research UK, we aim to be raising awareness of the game and introducing new players to it. An important part of the Festival will be a number of Taster Sessions around the county which will shortly be announced for potential new players – please check the WCBA website and the Facebook page for details and encourage your friends to register for one.

Members' Successes

Despite Worcestershire being a relatively small county in terms of population, we have had some notable successes recently in national and Midlands competitions. Details can be seen on the home page of the County website and these include successes in the EBU Overseas Congress in Majorca, the Swiss Teams at the Turkey Overseas Congress, the Midland Counties Bowl and the Swiss Pairs at the Scarborough Summer Congress. Worcestershire Members also had “nearlys” (but nonetheless very creditable) performances in the Pachabo Cup, the Premier Grand Master Pairs, the Grand Master Pairs and the Eastbourne Swiss Pairs.

Competitions

As September and the new season of bridge approaches, players will be putting dates in their diaries and recruiting partners and teams. We would particularly remind you of the following events which are well worth entering, both for the experience and because they're good fun: -

- The County Championship Teams – a knockout event with the winners qualifying for the Pachabo Cup.
- The Inter-Club Teams – this has regained its popularity as we've come back after lockdown and a No Fear division has been added as a result.
- The County Leagues – Last year there were three divisions, including a No-Fear division, and it's likely that will continue to be the case this year. We're aware that some teams missed the registration date this year so keep an eye on the County website for details. As last year, although games can be, and often are, played online, we encourage playing face to face simply because we believe that doing so provides more opportunities to socialise.

Tournament Director and Teacher Training

We remind club officials that the County Association will usually fund TD and teacher training courses for EBU-affiliated clubs, although clubs are reminded that the EBU will fund a Teacher Training course for every affiliated club every two years. Please contact the WCBA Chair, Eddy Blackburn (blackedd@hotmail.co.uk) for details.

Chairman's Cup

Fifteen Pairs played in the Chairman's Cup which took place at Ombersley Village Hall on Sunday 7th July. This is a very important event for the County because it is restricted to those who have played for less than five years. It offers, therefore, an opportunity for these players to become involved in competitive bridge in a wider, but still very friendly, environment than their clubs. The County recognises that these are the stars of the future and we welcome them to the wonderful world of competitive bridge.

Congratulations to the winners, Fiona Hahn and John Salisbury, who narrowly beat Patricia and Ken Smith into second place.