



## **Chairman's Annual Report - June 2016**

### **Yvonne Andrews 1926 – 2016**



It is with sadness that I open this year's report with the news that Yvonne Andrews passed away on Wednesday 8 June 2016. Yvonne, a Life Member of Warwickshire CBA, devoted over thirty years of service to bridge administration and development in Warwickshire. Yvonne was a member of the Warwickshire Council until 1970, when she joined the Executive Committee, and then went on to hold a number of offices including, Minutes Secretary, Chairman, Shareholder, Midland Counties Congress Committee Member/Chairman and, until her retirement from bridge administration in 2000, General Secretary.

Yvonne was awarded the English Bridge Union's Dimmie Fleming Award for services to bridge at County level, and Life Membership of Warwickshire CBA and the Midland Counties Congress in recognition of her dedication and commitment.

Although Yvonne has not enjoyed the best of health recently, she still managed to play some bridge, and maintain a keen interest in the affairs of the County. Yvonne will be sorely missed by all who knew her.

Our condolences go to her husband, Derek, her family and friends.

You may have noticed that my regular [Chairman's Corner](#) has disappeared. We publish everything that happens within the County, and beyond, on our [County Website](#), so the need to produce regular reports seems to be a matter of repeating what has been 1) on the website, and 2) an edit of last year's document! So, I will keep to an annual report to members, the website, and our [Facebook page](#), as a means of communication.

Reporting on events from the start of the season Leslie Reece's thirty four years of service to bridge in Warwickshire were recognised. Leslie received Honorary Life Membership of our County Association and was awarded the [EBU Dimmie Fleming Award](#) for services to bridge.

Leslie has been a member of the Warwickshire Executive Committee, formerly Council, for thirty four years. Joining the Committee in 1981 as assistant League Secretary, he took over as League Secretary in 1985, an office he held until he became Vice-Chairman in 1990. He took over the Chairmanship in 1992 and remained for two years until he retired, and then spent a year as an Ex-Officio member of the Committee. In 1996 he returned to the office of League Secretary, a post he held for nine years until, in 2005, he became Treasurer, an office he still holds today. In addition to his various roles on the Committee Leslie has, over the years, represented Warwickshire as a Shareholder, which he still continues to do. He has also served on many subcommittees of the County, and on the Midland Counties Congress Committee. Well done Leslie, and thank you!



Two of our juniors, Liz Gahan and Megan Jones, have [represented](#) England in International events. This is a fantastic achievement for Liz and Megan, and we wish them every success with their International Bridge!

Picture © & courtesy of the English Bridge Union

Last year I informed members that the [EBU](#) had been granted a [Judicial Review](#) against Sport England's refusal to recognise Bridge as a sport. The Executive Committee fully endorsed the EBU's decision to seek a Judicial Review, and we hoped that they would be successful.

Unfortunately, the EBU was not successful in its challenge, and in September 2015 the Judicial Review found in Sport England's favour. The Board of the English Bridge Union has decided to appeal this decision for a number of reasons, namely:

- To allow bridge players nationwide to compete on a level-playing field with other sporting bodies for local resources and lottery funding.

- To gain recognition for bridge in order for it to be included in the school curriculum alongside other more traditionally recognised sports.
- To bring to a wider public the fact that bridge can have a positive effect on certainly their mental well-being and probably, by extension, their physical well-being.

At a recent Shareholders' meeting costs, should the EBU lose the case, were estimated in the region of £160K. The EBU has reserves to cover this amount should the worst happen and we lose the case. However, a win would mark the most significant development for Bridge in England to date.



Our Congratulations go to Tony Poole and teammates, from Worcestershire Stewart Fishburne, Chris Philp and Mike Willoughby, on winning the 2015 [EBU Silver Plate](#).

Congratulations to the [Dawes](#) (County First) and [Porter](#) (County Second) Teams on winning their respective divisions, and to the [Markham](#) (County Third) Team who finished second in their division. The Dawes and Porter teams will now compete in the National Final in July, and we wish them every success. Thanks go to Adrian for his excellent work organising the teams, and to all the players, who give up their Sundays to represent our County in the respective divisions.



The Charity Simultaneous Pairs raised an outstanding £2140 in support of [Warwickshire Air Ambulance](#). Thanks go to David and Martin Jones and George Cuthbertson for providing the commentary; to the EBU for administering the scoring; to the Clubs who ran heats, and to all of you for playing and being so generous with your donations.

The information provided through the uploading of Universal Membership data this year has once again featured four Warwickshire Clubs in the [top fifty most attended affiliated Clubs in England 2015/16](#), those being, [Kenilworth](#) 3<sup>rd</sup> (4<sup>th</sup> in 2014/15, 2013/14 and 6<sup>th</sup> in 2012/13), [West Midlands](#) 4<sup>th</sup> (3<sup>rd</sup> in 2014/15, 2013/14 and 2012/13), [Stratford](#) 12<sup>th</sup> (12<sup>th</sup> in 2014/15, 10<sup>th</sup> in 2013/14 and 17<sup>th</sup> in 2012/13), [Sutton Coldfield](#) 25<sup>th</sup> (25<sup>th</sup> in 2014/15, 27<sup>th</sup> in 2013/14 and 26<sup>th</sup> in 2012/13). Apparently, only four player sessions (that's one table at one session) separated Kenilworth & West Midlands!

I reported last year that Warwickshire had taken over the running of the Midland Counties Congress. The Congress held in January this year was a great success and I would like to thank everyone involved in running the event, particularly, Elayne Meakin, our Tournament Directors Mike & Sarah Amos and Ian Mitchell, and Jayne and her team at West Midlands Bridge Club. The 2017 event will be held over the weekend of 6-8 January, further details can be found at [www.midlandcountiescongress.org](http://www.midlandcountiescongress.org).

I am pleased to inform you that Warwickshire CBA has been asked by the English Bridge Union to run the National Swiss Teams Congress in May 2017 (formerly part of the National Teams Congress in January – which will now be the National Point a Board Teams at Young Chelsea Bridge Club , 21 & 22 January 2017). Further details for the National Swiss Teams can be found at [www.nationalswissteams.co.uk](http://www.nationalswissteams.co.uk).

As part of my role on the Board of the English Bridge Union I am Chairing the National County Working Group. This Working Group has been set up by the Board to focus on what Members, Clubs and Counties feel is important to the future of the EBU. One of the current focuses is what we can provide to the many members we welcomed through Universal Membership, many of whom would not have become members of the EBU otherwise. Warwickshire's representatives are Mike Thorley and Judith Currie, so if you have any comments or suggestions on how you feel the EBU future should develop, Mike & Judith will be delighted to hear from you. You are also welcome to send your comments to [me](#), or to [Sandra](#) (County Secretary) to forward to them.

Our Competitions Committee works very hard to organise a varied and challenging programme of events for us to compete in, and our thanks go to the people responsible for co-ordinating them, Elayne & Mike Meakin, Lin Birch, and John Pyner. One of our main events, the Warwickshire Pairs League (WPL), is a Swiss Pairs style event using teams scoring, and runs on the third Wednesday of the month (September – June). The League is divided into divisions, to enable players to enjoy competing in a smaller field, with a chance for promotion and, of course, relegation! If you are considering playing in an event you have not played in before, or are considering your first County event, why not try WPL? Please contact [Elayne](#) for more information.

Ron Birch resigned from the Executive Committee in May and I am sure members will want to join me in thanking Ron for his work administering the Teams League and Handicap Knock-Out Cup. Derek Oddy has agreed to take on the role, and we wish Derek every success. If you would like to enter a team in the League, please contact [Derek](#). Malcolm Oliver joined the Executive Committee this year. In addition to being our English Bridge Correspondent, Malcolm is focusing on publicity to the non-bridge community (local media, etc) and will be administering our social media forums (currently Facebook).

If you are on Facebook please search for our group and join the community. We hope to include discussions on topics and interesting hands from County events, etc.



We have co-opted Mike Meakin onto the Executive Committee. Mike has worked very hard for us for many years, but in an unofficial capacity (other than being married to Elayne), so



we felt it was time to make him official! Mike will be responsible for bridge publicity and will continue as a member of the competitions committee, and as a Tournament Director.

Our Junior Bridge programme is headed by our Player Development and Youth Officer, Myra Scott. Myra works very hard to provide opportunities for new players, and through our Minibridge schemes in local primary schools, currently Bentley Heath Primary School and Wheelers Lane Primary School. Our thanks go to the members who organise and support those groups: Dennis Heighway, Vicky Hudson, Prue & Adrian Knight, Janice Roberts, Tony Whitby, and Phil Williams. In order for us to maintain our Junior Minibridge and Bridge Programmes we need volunteers both to assist with delivery, and to lead on new initiatives. If you feel you could offer some time in support of these please contact [Myra Scott](#).

The Player Development Group (PDG) competitions are suitable for players with little more than one year's learning through to those with up to ten years' playing experience. This year we saw an increased entry into the Warwickshire League and Handicap Knock-Out with teams who had progressed through the Non-Expert Teams events. Our congratulations to those teams, and we look forward to welcoming more in the future. Our thanks go to Myra Scott and her team, Denis Gough, Peter Styles and Mike Thorley, for their work on the Player Development Group.

Warwickshire in partnership with West Midlands Bridge Club runs a series of Non-Expert Teams events designed to develop team play and master the art of teams scoring. Also, there are Master Classes, led by Stephen Green, which are primarily aimed at players who already play duplicate bridge and wish to improve their technique, judgement and partnership agreements. Each session contains brand new material, and is independent of the others. Further information may be found on the [website](#).

A special thank you goes to Myra Scott and the Player Development Group, who work very hard to provide a stimulating and varied programme of activities for newcomers and developing players.



On Sunday 3 July we (@ WMBC) will be holding a heat of the [Midlands Improvers Pairs](#) competition. This event, with two other venues (Derby & Cheltenham) is open to all (from EBU affiliated, and non-EBU affiliated clubs) players from Derbyshire, Gloucestershire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Staffordshire & Shropshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire, with less than 5 years bridge playing experience. (EBU members should have no more than 5000 master points.) Entry fee will be £10 per player, to include afternoon tea and a printed commentary on the hands played. Overall winners will receive trophies. If you fall into this category, or you know players who do, please do support this event. Entries please to [Myra Scott](#).

I would like to say thank you to all the people within the County who contribute to the teaching of bridge. They contribute so much to the enjoyment of the game for new players, and each one of them is making a very positive contribution to the future of the game. It is vitally important that when learning the game players are introduced to the family of bridge that is the English Bridge Union and the Counties across England. If you are interested in joining our team of teachers please contact [Myra Scott](#).

In July, Warwickshire will be running a Tournament Director (TD) Refresher Course for our Affiliated Club TDs who have attended, and passed, the EBU Club Tournament Director Training Courses: Book Rulings, Judgment Rulings and Final Assessment. The main aim of the Course is to provide our TDs with an opportunity to gain valuable table experience. It is fair to say that our TDs give a lot of time and effort in attending, and passing, the EBU Club TD Courses, but then can go for long periods of time without ever giving a ruling! These Courses, which we hope will become annual events, will provide that valuable stimulation and experience, and will give our TDs the opportunity to interact with a wider TD community. Our thanks go to Maggs & John Pyner for putting in a great deal of time collating this course.



We would like to thank [Nicklins LLP](#), accountants and business advisers, of Birmingham, who have been sponsors of Warwickshire CBA for the past five years. Their support has helped us to deliver and develop our Junior Bridge Programme, for which we are most grateful.

We are now looking for new Sponsors, so if you own, work in, or just know a company who may be interested in sponsoring Warwickshire CBA in return for advertising on our website and on our publications, please let me know.

As you all appreciate, running a County like Warwickshire takes a lot of time, dedication and commitment from a substantial number of people. I would once again like to take this opportunity to thank all of our Bridge Clubs, and their Members, who have played host to the many events we have organised during the year, and for their support in ensuring that the affairs of the County are kept in good order. Some of our individual members deserve a special mention: Ken Crane, for his work on BPL and WPL MasterPoints, and other IT related matters; George Cuthbertson, for his work on the Competitions Committee, and for his Commentaries, reminders and Website updates; Bob Galvin, for being our Independent Examiner; David Kenward for his work with County League Match analysis; Paul Loweth & Robin Ogg for sitting on the County Conduct & Disciplinary Committees; Martin Ayers, Tony Boyer, Jenny Burr, Alf Cowdrey, Tony Cundy, Chris Gardiner, Margaret Johnson, Phil Jones, Sue & David Jones, Adrian & Prue Knight, Peter Oldbury, Helen Richmond, David Robinson, Barbara & Steve Royston, Sheila Stansbie, Bob Sidney, Mary Taylor, and Jan Wade, for duplimating the many thousands of boards played throughout the year; Mike Meakin, for his support with the organisation and running of events, and the reminders he sends to us; Cathy Everson for her support with scoring; Myra Twyman, for her support with publicity; Roger Twyman, for his work as our Webmaster; the members who captain our County

League teams; Gordon Clark, Simon Creasey, Malcolm Oliver, Chris Potter, John Pyner, Mike Sallis, Nick Stevens, and Mike Willoughby, for contributing to the many commentaries produced throughout the season. My particular thanks to our Tournament Directors, Cathy Everson, Ian Hendry, David, Marilyn and Martin Jones, Mike Meakin, Maggs and John Pyner, and Nick Woosnam; some of whom also provide late night telephone rulings.


I would like to say a special word of thanks to members of the Executive Committee - Mike Thorley, Sandra Squires, Leslie Reece, Stephanie Galvin, Adrian Knight, Elayne Meakin, Myra Scott, Judith Currie, Jon Downing, Carolyn Fisher, Jane Hall, David Jones, Colin Lang, Mike Meakin, Malcolm Oliver, John Pyner and Nick Woosnam, and to non-Executive Committee Members, Lin Birch and George Cuthbertson - for their unfailing dedication and commitment. My thanks also to all of those people I have not mentioned by name, but who contribute so much to the Bridge administration across the County.

As you all know by now it is my belief that Warwickshire is one of the most successful Counties in the Country, and for that success to continue and develop it is imperative that we have volunteers from our membership who are prepared to give their time and expertise in support of it. There is a myth that good administrators have to be top bridge players, that is nonsense. Everyone who enjoys the game of bridge has something to offer the game's administration, and I urge each and every one of you to consider what you could offer to support the future of the game in your County.

Finally, and very importantly, I would like to thank all of our Members. Your support of the many Clubs you are members of, your attendance at County Competitions, and your contributions to the administration of Clubs, County, and National Organisation, are all vital to our success - thank you.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the County's administration please do not hesitate to contact me ([Chairman@WarwickshireBridge.co.uk](mailto:Chairman@WarwickshireBridge.co.uk)).

I hope you all have an enjoyable summer.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Darren', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Darren Evetts  
Chairman

## Honours Board 2015 – 2016

Event	Winners
Championship Pairs	Val Cooper & Bob Foster
Cock o' the County	Adrian Knight
Garden Cities/Tof8 Championship	<b>Coventry A:</b> Susan Norton, Darren Evetts, Colin Dean, Nick Stevens, David Kenward, Roger Bryant, Martin Jones, Stephen Green
Ladies' Pairs	Linda Stocks & Sue Cope
Men's Pairs	Ian Handley & Darren Evetts
Mixed Pairs	Andy Clifford & Margaret Crangle
Seniors' Pairs	Leslie Reece & Peter Oldbury
Seniors' Teams	Peter Oldbury, Roger Flood, Tony Poole, Gordon Clarke
Frank Cup	Andy Baruch, Mike Meakin, Lin & Ron Birch
Warwickshire Pairs League	<b>Autumn &amp; Spring</b> Ian Handley & George Cuthbertson
Coventry Pairs League	<b>Autumn &amp; Spring</b> Stephen Green & Martin Jones
Birmingham Pairs League	<b>Autumn</b> John Collin & Steve Wood <b>Spring</b> Chris Potter & Glyn Preece
Teams League	<b>WMBC A:</b> Justin Hackett, Paul Hackett, Jason Hackett, Brian Senior, Margaret Wort, Darren Evetts
Goodman Cup KO	Mike Leese, Steve Wood, Roger Bryant, Stephen Green
Handicap KO	Lin & Ron Birch, Audrey & Henry McBride
International Replay	Stephen Green & Martin Jones
Fledgling Pairs	Diana Meere & Roger Baty
Non-Expert Teams	Sharon Smitten, Jo Isaacs, Ann Wilkins, Chris Gunning, Allan Richardson
Mentored Novice Pivot Teams	Carolyn Fisher with Kate McKinnon-Evans, Elizabeth & Neil Boynton
Introductory Pairs	Melanie & Peter Boynton
Chick o' County Pairs	Pauline & Simon Hogan
Introducing Duplicate Play	Glynis Nicholson & Mick Connell
Novice Spring Pairs	Judith Currie & Nigel Seifas
Non-Expert Pairs	Anju Shah & Brian Mitchell

# Warwickshire

## Contract Bridge Association



# Competitions

**September 2016**

**to**

**July 2017**



SPONSORS OF WCBA

**Please note that dates are subject to change  
see website for up to date calendar**

**[www.warwickshirebridge.co.uk](http://www.warwickshirebridge.co.uk)**

**June 2016**



Day	Date	Competitions	Entry Conditions	Time	Venue
3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> Wed 4 <sup>th</sup> Thur	<b>Sep-Jan</b> <b>Feb-Jun</b>	WPL* BPL* CPL*	Pre-Entry by 31 Aug (& 31 Jan)	7pm	WMBC Moseley CNWBC
Goodman Cup – KO Teams of 4    October – April (Entry by noon 30 Sept) Teams of Four League    September - May Handicap Cup – KO Teams of 4    September - May					
Wed	<b>9 Nov</b>	Ladies' & Men's Pairs	Open	7pm	WMBC
Thurs	<b>29 Sep</b>	Seniors' Pairs	60+	11.30am	WMBC
Fri – Sun	<b>6 – 8 Jan</b>	<b>67<sup>th</sup> Midland Counties Congress</b>			WMBC
Sun	<b>29 Jan</b>	Garden Cities Teams of 8	Club Entry*	12pm	CNWBC
Thurs	<b>30 Mar</b>	Seniors' Teams	60+ (hosts available)	11.30am	WMBC
Sun	<b>7 May</b>	Championship Pairs Final	Club Heats	12pm	WMBC
Sat & Sun	<b>13 &amp; 14 May</b>	<b>The National Swiss Teams</b>			WMBC
Wed	<b>31 May</b>	Mixed Pairs Final	Club Heats	7pm	WMBC
Sun	<b>25 Jun</b>	Frank Cup & AGM	Open	12pm	CNWBC
Thurs	<b>6 Jul</b>	Seniors' Pairs	60+	11.30am	WMBC

**Details from and entries to: Elayne Meakin ☎: 07986 597447  
or Lin Birch ☎: 02476 465665 or 07712 144650  
💻: [competitions@warwickshirebridge.co.uk](mailto:competitions@warwickshirebridge.co.uk)**

**Non-Expert Teams**

**A series of 4 evening events  
At West Midlands Bridge Club**

**6.45pm**

**£4.00 per person, per session  
Team mates guaranteed  
Full details from Myra (see below)**

**Dates: 14 Dec, 11 Jan, 8 Feb, 8 Mar**

Day	Date	Competitions	Time
Sun	6 Nov	Chick o' the County Pairs	1.30pm
Sun	20 Nov	Mentored Novice Pivot Teams	1.30pm
Sun	23 Apr	Fledgling Pairs	1pm
		Introductory Pairs	2pm
Sun	21 May	Introducing Duplicate Play	1pm
		Novice Spring Pairs	2pm

**Myra Scott ☎: 0121 240 3325 or 07939 353098**  
**💻: [pdg@warwickshirebridge.co.uk](mailto:pdg@warwickshirebridge.co.uk)**