



Surrey County Bridge Association

Newsletter # 58, Spring 2026

Introduction

Richard Banbury

First of all - a special welcome to our newest members – the county gained about 170 members in the last three months, largely reflecting all the teaching being done. I hope you are enjoying all the opportunities to play at your club and elsewhere.

Many thanks to Richard Challoner School for hosting our schools’ teams event in February. 24 teams took part from schools across the South East and the event continues to thrive

The County Pairs will be held at Richmond BC on 19th April. This will start with a qualifier followed by a final from which the top 5 eligible pairs qualify for the EBU Corwen Trophy. For more information about how to enter click [HERE](#).

I have been asked to provide a quick snapshot of the numbers playing bridge in the county: -

A lot of bridge happens socially in homes and other sports clubs, as well as café bridge and other charity events, not showing up in the statistics at all. However there are 40 duplicate bridge clubs affiliated to the county and through us to the EBU - meaning we have the largest membership across the country, making up approx. 10% of the EBU total.

The EBU’s guideline is for clubs and counties to bring in about 8% of their membership as new members each year – just in order to maintain current numbers – i.e. to replace those who may have passed away or stopped playing.

On that basis, with approx. 5,000 members this means we need to bring on board 400 members a year. Overall we are well placed to achieve that target, with membership and the number of sessions played remaining fairly constant in recent years.

Interestingly out of our 5,000 members, more than 1,500 have not played at an affiliated club at all in the last 12 months. This equates to a playing membership of about 70% of the total – whereas for the majority of counties it is over 80%. This represents an overlooked opportunity for some clubs to re-engage with dormant members.

When it comes to new players and beginners taking up duplicate bridge, the danger is that they may not be spread evenly across our clubs. The main factor in increasing membership is the availability of teaching in the local area, if not at the club itself. This is far from given, even in Surrey. Out of our 40 clubs, 23 meet once a week, and the majority of these have less than 50 members. Finding the space, and the people, to run lessons or supervised sessions to bring on new players is very difficult in those circumstances.

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As a result, over time the small clubs tend to get smaller and the big clubs bigger. To mitigate that effect, we need to develop and encourage new teachers – to retain the diversity and convenience of local clubs.

Teachers don't need to be the strongest or most experienced players – just good communicators! I would be delighted to hear from anyone interested in becoming a teacher – the county can provide all the advice and support needed for anyone wanting to start a new bridge class.

Similarly, we all are, or can be, ambassadors for introducing friends and colleagues to the game. Nothing beats a personal recommendation to encourage a new player to give it a go – so please don't be shy about suggesting how someone can get started, even if just to put them in touch with me. There is also an excellent site www.enjoybridge.co.uk with details of lessons available.

Richard Banbury

Chairman

chairman.scba@bridgewebs.com

Calendar

Apr 19 th	County Pairs	Richmond
Apr 26 th	Mary Edwards	Wimbledon
Jul 5 th	AGM	Richmond

Le Petit Bridge

We are holding Taster Sessions for youngsters in Primary and Preparatory Schools playing the wonderful game of Le Petit Bridge. We are also running After School Clubs in Maths and Le Petit Bridge in Boxgrove Primary and Tormead Prep, in Guildford.

We are following on from the success of Le Petit Bridge in France, Holland and Poland.

Youngsters love the Fun, making Friends and the Fiendish nature of Le Petit Bridge. Teachers are advocating the many benefits of the game.

[https://vimeo.com/1157530386/82bcc99494?&login=true#_ =](https://vimeo.com/1157530386/82bcc99494?&login=true#_=)

If any School or School teacher in Surrey, Sussex and Hampshire wishes to have a Taster Session please contact douglaswright@3countiesbridge.com

All bridge players and bridge clubs can easily play a couple of hands and then introduce the game to their children and grandchildren.

Farnham

Farnham Bridge Club will hold a series of 6 face to face (F2F) sessions on the second Wednesday of each month from April 8th to September 9th inclusive. They will take place at the Bourne club, [12 Frensham Road, Farnham, Surrey, GU9 8HB](#).

The session on July 8th will include the club's AGM. The cost of £3 per session (guests £4, AGM evening free) will be deducted from member's accounts with the club. Players will be asked to sign up to play closer to the dates. There is a limit of 9 tables each evening and the game will be cancelled if fewer than 10 pairs are signed up by midnight on the preceding Sunday.

These evenings will continue to qualify for the club's Delft Cup and Phil Garner trophies but there will also be a "F2F Series winner". This will be calculated by taking the total of each individual's 3 highest scores of the 6 evenings.

Double Dummy #26 - solution

John Manches

	♠AKQ	
	♥632	
	♦A4	
	♣76542	
♠8		♠109432
♥9754		♥8
♦J96		♦K108753
♣AKJ98		♣3
	♠J765	
	♥AKQJ10	
	♦Q2	
	♣Q10	

South to make 4H

Lead ♣A, followed by K and then J

South ruffs the 3rd round of clubs and draws trumps. When East shows out on the second round of clubs the contract depends only on guessing correctly who holds ♦K. Since DD shows you that East holds ♦K, discard ♦A from dummy on the 4th round of trumps. ♠AKQ is followed by ♦4, using East as a stepping stone to return to hand. When East wins ♦K he can then only give you the entry needed back to hand.

Easy when you are prepared to jettison a winning Ace. 1 off if you aren't. But suppose it was for real and not double dummy? You then have to guess where ♦K lies. If West has it the contract is still makeable – the play is just rather different. Keep ♦A. Discard a club on the last trump, and throw West in at T11 with dummy's last club (discarding ♠J from hand). West then has to lead away from his ♦K to give you tricks 9 and 10.

In real play ... Discard an Ace?! I know where I'd assume the ♦K lay.

Mike Tinsley was the winning name drawn out of the hat. He gets free entry to one of our county competitions for himself and partner of choice.

Charity Events

Bridge Lunch in aid of Shooting Star Childrens Hospices

Wednesday 15th July, 2026

When: 10:30am for Coffee and Cake
11:00am—3:00pm for Bridge
Where: Shalford Village Hall, Kings Road, Shalford,
Guildford GU4 8BQ
Tickets: £25.00
(To include coffee, lunch with a glass of wine and prizes)



Please bring tables, cards, pencils, bridge and lunch tablecloths.

Contact: Louise Healy, 01483 898539 / louise.healy605@btinternet.com

Double Dummy Puzzle #27

John Manches

This month offers another problem for those who like a brain challenge but not-too-difficult teasers (well I suppose they're never difficult if you see the answer).

♠73
♥KJ10954
♦J32
♣32

♠K542 ♠QJ10986
♥2 ♥Q
♦Q1074 ♦986
♣Q1087 ♣J96

♠A
♥A8763
♦AK5
♣AK54

South to make 7H
Lead ♥2

Entries to johnmanches74@gmail.com. By April 19th please. As usual, the winner will be drawn from all those with a clear, full, correct-first-time solution. The prize, which is open to all Surrey members, will be free entry to one of our county competitions for the winner and partner of choice.

Not so long ago sitting North as dealer I found I'd been dealt a "Yarborough" . I made a careful survey of the room and established to my chagrin that the Earl wasn't present and that therefore any hopes I might entertain of claiming my 1000 guineas were to be dashed.
I returned to an examination of the hand wondering how best to console myself.

I decided to adopt the pre-war tip from my mentor, Norman, (he of the eponymous slam-seeking convention) de Vere Hart, who recommended making an opening bid in such circumstances in an attempt to deter EW from finding a slam.
So, observing the green light facing me from the table, I bid 1D, my only 4-card suit.
And it worked ! Well, sort of.

My partner routinely bid 1NT and the opposition was silent.
In fact, despite the fact that one EW pair bid and made a slam, the slam wasn't really on, and most pairs settled for a comfortable vulnerable game.
So at 4 down the stratagem was a success - but it wouldn't have been if West had doubled as she should have done.

Later on in the session our EW visitors were longstanding bridge friends of ours, who are certainly far more expert than I, and probably much better versed in matters of bridge lore.
I recounted the earlier exploit. Both were horrified, telling me that the bid was "illegal" and that I'd be drummed out of bridge clubs up and down the land for such reckless and antisocial behaviour.

At close of play, somewhat abashed, I approached the director to suggest that he annul our score on that hand and replace it with a "Not Played"
No, No, he cried - the bid was perfectly O.K and above board - it should stand.
Subsequently I consulted other directors of my acquaintance (I move in illustrious circles) all of whom agreed the bid was 100% O.K.

In fairness to my two longstanding pals I should state that further investigation showed that they play regularly in a non-EBU club where "local rules" prohibit this kind of thing.

However, if the case had reached the High Court my defense would have been thus :-

- 1) The Earl had calculated that Yarboroughs occur about once in every 1700 or so hands
- 2) So, occupying first seat the odds lengthen to about 7000 to 1
- 3) Now if a typical bridge session involves 21 boards and if I play SAY twice a week, it'll be over three and a half years before it comes up again
- 4) And so, m'lud, I contend that this cannot therefore be construed as the illicit use of an undisclosed agreement.

I rest my case

Richard Granville Ackland

Eastbourne – one hand 3 happenings....

Here is a match from the EBU summer festival at Eastbourne, with 3 different results with varying degrees of success achieved by the players. It is worth noting that Dave & David came second overall this year.

Session 4 board 38

Dir: East
Vul: E/W

♠ --
♥ A Q 10 6
♦ A K Q 9 7 2
♣ 10 8 6

♠ A Q J 9 5 4 3 2
♥ K 5 2
♦ 10 6
♣ --

NORTH
WEST 38 EAST
SOUTH

♠ K 6
♥ 9
♦ 5 4 3
♣ K 9 7 5 4 3 2

♠ 10 8 7
♥ J 8 7 4 3
♦ J 8
♣ A Q J

♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ N
N 3 6 6 - -
S 3 7 7 - -
E - - - 2 -
W - - - 3 -

Steve Bourton & Julia Brough sitting E/W

Bidding

N	E	S	W
	P (1)	P	4S (2)
4N! (3)	P	5C	P
5D	P	5H	All pass

- 1 Steve decided the club suit was not good enough to preempt, so passed
- 2 Who wouldn't?
- 3 2 places to play

We didn't bid 5S, which is a good sacrifice – if left!, but would we have pushed them to 6H which makes?

Not very surprisingly I led AS, and then very unsurprisingly they made 5H+1, which got us 20% of the match points. I can't see that anything would have been different if Steve had opened 3C. We got a bad score on the hand because the opps bid well against us.

David Dawson and Dave Norman sitting N/S

In the penultimate round against the eventual winners, our auction was exciting:

N	E	S	W
	3C	P	3S
X	4S	5H	P
6H	All pass		

West led AS, ruffed in dummy. 13 tricks are obviously available if West holds KH to no more than 3, but taking a losing H finesse will lead to only 11 if East holds KH, as West will get an inevitable C ruff. Dave reckoned that 6H making would be a very good score, so played A and another H finding West with the King; the S continuation was ruffed in dummy, and JD the entry to South's hand to draw the remaining trump and claim. End result 6H making for 98% of the match points.

Only two other pairs bid to 6H, one making 13 tricks - presumably without the 3C opening bid

Gerard Thompson and Andrew Mann sitting N/S

At our table East chose not to open his rather scraggy club suit at unfavourable. The bidding went:

N	E	S	W
	P	P	4S
5D	5S	X	All pass

This looks to have worked out very well for EW as North started with two high diamonds (underleading to partner's Jack at trick 2 to allow him to play a trump would be a high-risk play).

West ruffs the next trick and should lead the HK, and North is back on play, desperately looking for a trump to lead but he still does not have one, so declarer gets two heart ruffs and achieves a rare profitable 5-level unfavourable sacrifice.

Instead, however, declarer played two rounds of trumps ending on table and led a heart to the King, which caused us no further problems. End result 5SX – 3 for a fortuitous 92% of the match points.

On reflection I quite like 4NT rather than 5D on my cards, but if East bids 5S I think we will still just defend 5SX.

Wanborough Cup & Mary Edwards

Sadly, this year the Wanborough Cup is not being run.

This is for 2 main reasons: firstly the numbers have declined, and there is a view that the decline in numbers is at least partly because Mayfield always win usually by a large margin, and this prevents other teams from entering as they don't want to be "bulldozed".

Secondly very few clubs run teams competitions now, and where they do there are endless requests to accommodate players who haven't played in their club event just to make up the numbers.

This means the integrity of the competition is compromised as it is no longer for club champions.

However, the committee are considering running a teams event where clubs can enter any players they like, and can make up teams from more than one club if they want. Please let the committee know if you would support such an event.

However, there is still time to enter your championship pair for the **Mary Edwards On April 26th**. If your club has not yet put in their entry, then encourage them to do so! This is definitely a 'Use It or Lose It' situation.

Congratulations

Surrey

SCBA Swiss Pairs Jun Nakamaru-Pinder & Paul Barton



SCBA Swiss Teams

Kevin Robins & Graham Cunningham
Isabel Correia & Anthony Melbourne

Mixed Pairs

Andrew Briggs and Milli Fawssett



Dorin Salver

Overall Winners - Colin Porch & Kathryn Hopkins (Caterham)

Teams of Eight

Mayfield Red

Anthony Melbourne & Neil Gayner, Richard Fedrick & Andrew Southwell
David Dawson & David Norman, Arun Suri & Peter Lee



Schools Cup

The Surrey Schools' Cup competitions were held on 6th February 2026 brilliantly hosted by Richard Challoner school. 95 children took part on the day from 11 schools across Surrey, Sussex and Herts. There were 24 teams in the three teams' competitions.

We welcomed a new team from Watford Grammar School.

The Surrey Schools' Cup had seven teams and was won by the Haberdashers A team made up of Holden Clark, Noaz Heymann, Sam Akayan and Rian Malde. Closely grouped in second and third position were St Pauls B trailing by 14 IMPS (Louis Littlemore, Kevin Lu, Leo Satchell and Samuel Christie) with St Pauls A just 1 IMP further back (Adavya Goyal, Aman Parekh, Gijs Van Angeren, Olle Angeren).

Our second tier tournament for the Salver, had eight teams taking part, and was won by the Haberdashers C team (James Tran, Dev Shah, Louis Zeng, Jonathan Grupetta). They had a large lead of 36 IMPS over the Watford Grammar team (Wilfred Marshall, Sebastian McCann, Vettri Gureja, Dhruven Patel, Samuel Douglas-Bardsley).

Our third tier tournament for the Crystal aimed at those who have only recently started bidding had 9 teams taking part and was won by the Lancing Prep team of Shiloh Duncanson, Katie Duncanson, Jessenia Henry and Ella-Rose Appelgren with a 10 IMPS lead from the Westminster C team (Rufus Sewell, Jahanara Ansari, Aarav Shah, Lex Booth). A special mention to all the players from Westminster, Richard Challoner, Epsom College, Putney High and Kings College School in this event for their sporting behaviour when up against younger (and usually noisier!) opponents still learning to bid (although not afraid to try a penalty double or two....).

The mini bridge competition planned for January 30th at Oxshott was postponed and may now be held in the Spring term if a suitable date can be found.

My thanks to Frances Williams and her exceptional helpers from Richard Challoner School for all their help in making this event happen and to June Middleton and Shirley Pritchard from SCBA for helping with the setting up. The biggest thank you goes to Richard Banbury and Luiz Lima for running three teams' events simultaneously and pushing on to get a reasonable number of completed boards (no mean feat in the Crystal event!).

Honours Board

Cup

Winners

Haberdashers A



Runners Up

St Pauls B



Salver

Winners

Haberdashers C



Runners Up

Watford Grammar



Crystal

Winners

Lancing Prep



Runners Up

Westminster C



Membership Development

At the Chairman's lunch, Mary Cousins of the EBU gave a good talk about membership development. Her talk can be distilled to the following table:

Topic	Description	Link
Your class onto the website	We have created a separate little website (www.enjoybridge.co.uk) listing bridge classes around the country that we know about, with their start dates and contact details. There were 200 autumn classes and around 120 January classes on this. This will be repopulated with new classes as we gear up for September. Make sure to tell us about your class or open day. Here is a link to a form you can use to feed information directly into the site.	- Form
Promotional resources	A collection of photos, graphics, videos, fliers, ads and other resources that you can use to promote your club or class.	SmugMug
Member gets member	Here is a straightforward three step process that you can use to get your club members to invite friends and family to bridge, particularly if you have an open day or class starting soon.	3-Step Plan
Teaching	Visit EBED's website for dates of courses and links to teaching resources. There is upcoming teacher training in Horsham, Tunbridge Wells and Cambridge.	EBED
Encourage more players to teach	We have started a communications campaign to encourage more players to have a go at teaching, or to lend a hand. Speak to myself or Sam if you have any ideas or content that we can use to help encourage more bridge players to teach.	sam@ebu.co.uk
Webinars	We run webinars on a monthly basis. Over the last few months we have covered the following topics: Teaching as a whole club activity, Promotion, Healthy Committees, and What makes bridge fun. The next one on Tuesday 27th January will be on Innovation.	Webinars

Mary says 'Do get in touch if you have any queries or suggestions.'

Mary Cousins
County & Membership Development Officer
Direct line 01296 317205



Kegham Bedrossian

Please tell us a bit about yourself

I was born in Turkey in 1926. My parents moved to Cyprus, which was under British rule, when I was three years old and I spent most of my young adult life on this beautiful island. After secondary school, I went to the American Academy and, when I was eighteen, I got my first job in the government working for the commissioner in Larnaca. Protests against British rule in Cyprus started in 1952 and, at the age of twenty- three, I was called to the Secretariat in Nicosia where I was given a special job in the Secret Service because I was an Armenian. I went on to have various government jobs including working in the Forestry Department, the Traffic Department and the Central Prisons. When British rule ended in 1960, I was in charge of four detention camps with over 4,000 detainees, all of whom were released shortly afterwards. I was literally the last member of the British Government on the island! I handed over seventeen million pounds worth of goods to the new Greek Government comprising seven Greek ministers and three Turkish ministers. This arrangement caused yet more trouble as the Turks were not happy. The trouble started the night I got engaged, December 1963! I married my wonderful wife Helena in 1964 who is also Armenian.

In 1974, after the partition, I left Cyprus and moved permanently to the United Kingdom. I am a naturalised British subject and still have my certificate from the King who promised to help me out in all difficult situations. I only had £80 when we got the airport. Greek Airlines assured me that they had been instructed to help me out. They took £40 for four tickets and the rest went on hotel accommodation. I arrived in England with two shillings (10p). I was very fortunate that my brother supported us when we arrived in London.

After a few years in England my wife decided she was going to find a job or return to Cyprus. We opened a hair dressing salon. There was only one location I wanted to live in and that was Richmond. We were very lucky as we found a property on Richmond Hill. We named the salon Hair by Helena.

When did you take up bridge?

In 1951 I met a young colonel who was president of a tennis tournament in Wolseley Barracks. When I won the tournament, he came over to congratulate me and asked what we did other than play tennis. I said we played cards. He asked if he could visit and, when he came over, he told us to put our cards away and taught us how to play bridge. In those days you could open with two Aces and a King. I still do!

When did you join RBC?

I am one of the founder members. Before RBC, a group of us including Martin Sinclair used to play bridge on Richmond Hill in a council building. We decided to find a more permanent place. We each paid £100 and, together with the help of the bank, we rented our current premises and started RBC. We are all now life-long members. It's been wonderful watching RBC grow into the best and most beautiful club in England!

Any memorable stories?

When I lived in Cyprus, I met John Fletcher-Cook who was Colonel Secretary. His wife, Alice, was an American. She used to call me and say 'Kegham I need a fourth for tonight.' She became my tennis partner and we won one tournament together. She also relocated to London and went on to become secretary of the Surrey bridge club. Out of the blue she called me one day 'Kegham I see you won at Richmond'. She promptly moved from her club in Wimbledon and started playing with me at RBC

We hear your son coaches football...

My son Ara lives in Cyprus and coaches football for Liverpool youth. All Armenians support Liverpool. I used to play football but hurt my leg while playing as a youngster. It still hurts!

Do you have any other hobbies?

I was the tennis champion of Cyprus for over twenty years. When I used to visit the detention camps in the fifties, the young boys use to shout out 'Hi Kegham, did you bring us cigarettes?'. They all recognised me for my tennis. I won three mixed doubles tournaments, twenty-six singles and thirty-two doubles in twenty years. I played in the preliminary rounds at Wimbledon and was very lucky as they sent me 12 tickets to the tournament for a few years after that.

I also love betting on the horses. I used to own three race horses in Cyprus. I lost them in the partition. Every Saturday I go to my local bookies, William Hill - they even have a special chair reserved for me! I far prefer going to the bookies and watching the races on the TV than going to an actual race track. I only place small bets...

What are you most proud of?

My amazing wife - we've been married for fifty-five years - and our three wonderful children. We have two sons, Barrett and Ara, and one daughter Karine. Barrett is a finance director and visits me every Sunday with his family for breakfast. Karine is an actress and is writing her first film. On the bridge side, I introduced bridge to the Greek tennis club in Cyprus. I played bridge for Cyprus against many countries including Israel and the Lebanon. Tel Aviv have the most beautiful women. In Cyprus, bridge and tennis went together!

Would you ever go home to Cyprus?

No, I could never leave the Richmond Bridge Club and my bookies!

One last thought

I've had the most amazing life, God really loves me.



David and Kegham watching Wimbledon. Bridge and tennis go together at RBC too!

And finally.....

The next newsletter will come out towards the end of June. So, please send me any club news, personal stories and photographs for the next edition. Is your club having a charity event you would like to tell people about? Let me know. Are you planning any club celebrations? Send me pictures.

[Julia Brough](#)

Editor