



Surrey County Bridge Association

Newsletter # 59, Summer 2026

Introduction

I hope that you are all enjoying, or is not enjoying, then surviving summer.

Hopefully, you are still managing to play your regular bridge. SCBA has a new venture this year – Bridge with a cream tea at Leith Hill Place. This is aimed at those who like playing face-to-face but don't wish to be very competitive. Tony Cherrett explains all in this newsletter.

Please check the calendar and enter some (or all) of the events listed. Not forgetting to enter the teams events – Lady Rose Cup and Surrey Leagues.

I have been doing this newsletter for a number of years now, and feel that it is probably time for someone to give it a new look. Currently it comes out 4 times a year – but that timing is largely editor driven. If anyone is interested, then please contact the SCBA secretary Gail - **gaildnorman@hotmail.com**

Julia Brough

Editor

julia.brough@bluevalley.co.uk

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Calendar

Sep 2 nd	Bridge & Cream Tea	Leith Hill Place
Sep 19 th	GP Multiple Teams	Oxted School
Sep 20 th	GP Swiss Pairs	Richmond
Nov 8 th	Mixed Pairs	Wimbledon
Dec 7 th - 10 th	Dorin Salver	Clubs

Entries for the 2026-27 Surrey Leagues and Lady Rose are now open! Please book on the SCBA web site.

Mac Derwig - Obituary

Mac Derwig - Surrey County Bridge Association Chairman 2010 - 2015

Mac was born on 12.02.1940 in the Hague, Holland. From the beginning, his life was a struggle. He hardly knew his mother who spent long periods in hospital and died on his seventh birthday. He was not allowed to attend her funeral. All he had of her when she died, was one photograph. "I never knew my mother," he summed up the situation.

Music became a very important part of Mac's life. Wherever he lived, the place rocked to the sound of music.

There was always a piano in Mac's life, except the period between his second and the third wife, when he used to go to The Furniture Cave in King's Road London to play the pianos for sale there. Soon a loyal gathering was formed who attended these impromptu recitals every Saturday morning, until he left London to take up a job in Nigeria. He arrived in Africa, armed with an upright Ibach, and 3,000 nappies intended for the two new babies in the family. Mac always had his unique style.

When Mac was appointed as Maurice Zinkin's assistant in the Special Committee Secretariat, (a top function) Maurice took it upon himself to give Mac a little advice: Don't show you are smarter, be respectful and patient.

Being a straight-talking Dutchman in his first international posting, Mac had no inkling that, in England, 'a little advice' was a command. The very first case he handled involved an arrogant senior manager who overspent his budget by buying six country mills for the price of seven. Mac was a Dutch chartered accountant and promptly rejected the proposal. The man was infuriated. "You can hardly speak English," he mocked the young assistant. "I can't understand a word you say."

Without missing a beat, Mac switched to Dutch. "I don't speak Dutch," the man yelled. "Since I cannot speak English and you cannot speak Dutch, let us try the numbers," suggested Mac, oh so very suave.

In Portugal, he was shocked to find that he had to share an office with the charismatic and imperious Unilever partner in the country. This was the Portuguese way of keeping tabs on what the other manager was up to.

When Mac retired from Unilever, he was immensely fortunate to be appointed Chairman of the Finance Committee and the Treasurer of the University of Surrey. He was forever grateful to Sir David Varney who put him forward for this appointment.

These were exciting times. Surrey University rapidly rose in the ranking and at one point reached number four in the UK ranking. The team leading the University was fabulous and Mac enjoyed nine happy and fulfilling years.

Mac was a doer and he thrived on work. After he was diagnosed with prostate cancer, he joined a group of men that decided to act. It was called the Prostate Project and their achievements were remarkable. They started from small donations which they raised in hospitals and from golf tournaments and ended up raising millions from various donors. They built a research centre in the Royal Surrey Hospital, but the pinnacle of their achievement was the state-of-the-art Urology Centre which they built from scratch in record time. Mac was very proud to have one of the clinics named after him.

Mac and Varda were married for nearly 50 years. He had four children and ten grandchildren all of whom he adored and was very proud of. They are all brilliant. Most of them play the piano and they all call him Opa Mac.

For many years he was the Chairman of the Farnham Bridge Club and had a wonderful knack of encouraging other members to volunteer. He also was the Chairman of the Surrey Country Bridge association, a role in which he threw himself. During this time he and Graham Osbourne started a bridge club at Surrey University which met once a week.

His endearing smile, alert mind and easy-going nature, but incredibly organised method, meant that both Farnham Bridge Club and SCBA were consistently well led.

He died on 8 April, 2026.

Double Dummy #28

John Manches

If this year's summer bears out its current promise everyone's brains will already be nicely warmed up by the time this next puzzle appears. It was sent to me some time ago by Alan Brown, to whom I am indebted for his frequent contributions. Enjoy it. Another offering in the vein of it's-easy-when-you-see-your-way-through.

	♠ A Q 10 2	
	♥ A K J 8 5	
	♦ A K	
♠ 9 7 6	♣ A 6	♠ J 8
♥ 4		♥ Q 10 9 7 3
♦ 10 6 5 2	♠ K 5 4 3	♦ Q J 9 8 4
♣ Q J 8 4 2	♥ 6 2	♣ 9
	♦ 7 3	
	♣ K 10 7 5 3	

South to make 6S

Lead ♥4

The deadline for entries is **2nd August**. As usual, the winner will be entitled to free entry to a Surrey competition for him/herself and partner of choice.

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

Obviously, a squeeze where, as with many, it is a question of trying to visualise the last few cards for it to work (which it unerringly seems to do in printed puzzles).

♠A and a spade ruff, followed by 4 further rounds of trumps finishing in dummy reduces to :

	♠	
	♥54	
	♦J32	
	♣32	
♠		♠Q
♥		♥
♦Q107		♦986
♣Q1087		♣J96
	♠	
	♥	
	♦AK5	
	♣AK54	

On dummy's ♥5, discard ♦5 and West is scuppered. If he discards a club, ♣AK and a club ruff allows South to make ♣5 for his 13th trick. If he discards a diamond, ♦AK followed by ♣AK and a club ruff puts the lead back in dummy for the winning ♦J.

A fair number of replies this time (thank you ... and for the benefit of those who think they have the answer but are hesitant to actually submit it, don't hold back; not all the responses I get are always correct). Correct first-time answers were received from Andy Poole, Dominic Cooke, Frances Hinden, Gerard Thompson, Ian Swanson, John Dagnall, Richard Fedrick, Simon Foale ... and Steve Bourton, whose last minute entry was the one drawn

out of the winner's hat. Well done Steve. He gets free entry to a Surrey competition for himself and partner of choice.

Voice From The Deep

At the table recently I fell to musing (and I had plenty of opportunity for musing since, as events unfolded, my role in the proceedings was minimal) upon Messrs Goethe and Dukas and their own musings upon the fate of the luckless apprentice to the sorcerer, demonstrating convincingly that sophisticated tools, whether metaphysical, mechanical or, as in our case "conventional", are safe, only the hands of those thoroughly qualified and experienced enough to use them.

I was sitting with a modest opening hand, mildly frustrated that I was forced into silence by a vulnerable NS taking over the bidding when two things dawned upon me. Firstly they seemed to be bidding somewhat aggressively, not to say over-ambitiously, on top of which it soon became apparent that one of them was cue-bidding and the other wasn't.

Reminded me of the time when I sat down with a new partner with no opportunity to discuss anything, only to discover, too late, that one of us played transfers and the other didn't.

On this occasion, seizing the unusual opportunity of exploiting somebody else's confusion (it's usually the other way around), I began doubling gleefully (inwardly of course) after every bid they made - regardless.

They finished in 5 diamonds, so that their 5 tricks presented us with a substantial reward.

Clearly they hadn't been consulting their Goethe recently, so that 1700 down was their equivalent of the flooded sorcerer's den

But it was of little comfort to us (apart from a certain internal smugness) since, as that other bridge truism/cliché tells us - "it's only one hand" - and we finished in our customary lowly position despite it all

Richard Granville Ackland

Steve & I were happy to qualify for this. Surrey is allowed to have 5 pairs in the final, but sadly, in the event, only 2 pairs were able to play at the Spa Hotel in Telford. Due to the strength of the field, we were quietly happy with our middle of the field end result.

These 2 hands are of the 'do you don't you' – otherwise known as 'damned if you do damned if you don't' decisions to make at the 5 level. We got one right and one wrong! How do you think you would have done?

Session 1 Board 5

Hand 1 (North/South):

- North:** ♠ A Q 7 6 5 3 2, ♥ Q 5 3, ♦ 6, ♣ A 10
- South:** ♠ 9 8, ♥ 10 9, ♦ Q J 10 4, ♣ 9 8 7 4 2

Hand 2 (West/East):

- West:** ♠ K 10, ♥ K 4 2, ♦ A K 9 5 3 2, ♣ 6 3
- East:** ♠ J 4, ♥ A J 8 7 6, ♦ 8 7, ♣ K Q J 5

Bidding:

- West: 1♠
- East: 2♦
- West: 3♦
- East: 4♠
- West: 5♦
- East: X

Result: 5♦ makes, -500 for +500 and 15%.

We are sitting N/S.

Bidding:

N	E	S	W
1♠	2♦	2♥	3♦
4♠	5♦	X	

The lead was J♠, they went 3 off giving away -500 for +500 and 15% .

Sadly for us (this time) 4♠ does make so we got a bad result. Actually, 5♠ makes – should we have overcalled 5♦ instead of doubling?

Session 2 Board 26

Dir: East
Vul: All

♠ 4 2
♥ Q 8 7
♦ A 9 6 3
♣ 7 6 3 2

♠ 10 7 5 3
♥ K 6 5 4 3
♦ K 10
♣ J 4

NORTH
2/26
SOUTH

♠ K Q 9 6
♥ A J 10 9 2
♦ 7 5
♣ A 8

♠ A J 8
♥ - -
♦ Q J 8 4 2
♣ K Q 10 9 5

6
7 14
13

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	5	5	-	-	-
S	5	5	-	-	-
E	-	-	2	2	-
W	-	-	2	1	-

Still sitting N/S

Bidding:

N	E	S	W
	1♥	2N (1)	3♥
4♦	4♥	5♦	P
P	X		

- (1) Showing both minors (NOTE to self – PLEASE remember to ask what length – I have a horrible tendency to assume 5,5)

The lead was AH, result 5D* + 1 for +950 and 97%.

So showing that you win some and lose some!

Congratulations

County Pairs Cup

Conor Murphy and Imogen Davies



County Pairs Plate

Simon Foale and Graham Davison



Mary Edwards

Lyn Poole & Alan Bamford – Richmond



Lady Rose Cup

Team Granville:
Graham Sadie, Dominic Cooke, William Clennell, and Richard Granville

Bridge At Sea

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Wimbledon

1986 – 2026

Celebrating 40 Years of Teaching, Play and Competition

The club originated in the early 1980s at The Downs, Wimbledon, where our founder, John Gullick, taught a small group of beginners. After a year John invited his pupils to help him form a club, which started life in a church hall, described by one of the surviving pioneers as “pretty grotty”! It was soon recognised that better premises would be needed, and John managed to rent the Kenneth Black Memorial Hall – owned by the local Scout Group – on Thursday evenings. Salesrooms and small ads were scoured for extra bridge tables – which had to be removed from the hall at the end of every weekly session; the caretaker looking on, rattling his keys. The hall was used by many other groups, however John increased the number of bridge sessions and eventually negotiated with the Scouts to take over the hall completely.

Now that John had total control of the premises, he was able to obtain a bar licence and purchase items such as a coffee maker. To fund these improvements John suggested forming a members’ club, with 10 Year Memberships available for £100. The members bought John out in March 1986, but his ideas and ethos were, and still are, maintained – he insisted on good manners and good conduct around the bridge table, with an emphasis on teaching and inclusivity. Some of John’s rules may seem a little draconian today – men had to wear jackets and ties, although the latter could be removed during July and August! Jeans, shorts, T-shirts and trainers were definitely not permitted. Today we have a much more relaxed attitude to such matters.

Today the WBC hosts regular social events; in many cases raising money for local charities. For example £6,688 was raised in November 2025 for St Raphael’s Hospice. One of our most notable series of events was the *Night of the Stars* – a high-profile, good-natured, charity bridge Pro-Am event, with its roots firmly in Wimbledon Bridge Club. It was conceived and driven by Terry Hewett, a past WBC Chairman, for whom it became almost a full time job. Her vision, energy and commitment were the driving force behind the event throughout its entire nine-year run. *Night of the Stars* consisted of two linked events; the first was author and expert Paul Mendelson’s highly entertaining Auction of Stars, held each November. The second was the main event in February, when successful bidders had the opportunity to play with the Stars. The event consistently attracted the very biggest names in British and international bridge, many of whom returned year after year. Equally important was the generous support of so many club players, whose enthusiastic and often spirited bidding to play with the Stars, was fundamental to the success of the event, with hundreds of thousands of pounds raised for a variety of charities.

The reputation of *Night of the Stars* quickly spread worldwide. Renowned bridge legend Andrew Robson regularly referred to it in his *Times* column as “*the flagship event in the world of charity bridge*”, while the New York Times described it as “*the Who’s Who of British bridge*”. Coverage followed not only in the *Sunday Times*, the *Daily Telegraph*, the *Spectator* and *English Bridge*, but also on numerous bridge websites across the world – and was even included in the evening news on French television.

From its humble beginnings WBC has expanded to almost 900 members ranging in experience from complete beginners to highly experienced England International and County standard players, offering Duplicate, Face-to-Face and Online bridge, for all levels, and an extensive teaching programme for Beginners and Intermediates. Our 2025/26 learning programme enrolled 77 new students across 4 new classes, giving us a total of 143 students attending classes from beginning to advanced!

Some of our higher-ranked players will regularly mentor less experienced members. Advanced players are also well catered-for with regular SIMS competitions, Blue Pointed Swiss Pairs events, team events and the various Ladders always in operation. There are up to three face to face sessions per day, Monday to Saturday, with special events held on some Sundays. At the regular sessions players are welcome to arrive without pre-booking and without a partner – we try to ensure that a Host is always available at these sessions.

The club this year celebrated its 40th Anniversary as a members’ club, from Sunday 12th to Saturday 18th April, with a fun-packed week of bridge activities, delicious food, and plenty of free prosecco! Members enjoyed Chicago, Swiss Pairs, Pick-and-Mix Teams and Speedball - only 5 minutes per hand. Members enjoyed trying something new, and we will certainly be repeating Speedball and Mini Swiss Pairs. Gordon Rainsford, EBU Chief Executive and Debbie Sandford, EBU board, attended the 40th Anniversary Blue Pointed Swiss Pairs with Gordon presenting the medals. The week of celebrations culminated in a sumptuous Anniversary Supper.

The club runs a full programme throughout the summer - please do join us for one of our upcoming events, visit the website www.wimbledonbridgeclub.co.uk for more details and booking where required.

July 2026

Fri 17 11:00 Mini Swiss Pairs (5x5)

Tue 21 19:30 EBU British Summer Sims

Thu 23 13:30 EBU British Summer Sims

August 2026

Sat 1 11:00 MiniBridge Card Play

Sat 1 18:30 Summer Supper and Bridge

Tue 4 19:00 Summer Speedball, with Cheese and Wine

Sun 23 13:00 Blue Pointed Swiss Pairs

We look forward to many more years of teaching, play, competition ... and, most importantly, FUN!

Wimbledon Bridge Club

Kenneth Black Memorial Hall

56A Worple Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 4EY

Winners of the 40th Anniversary Supper and Bridge



N/S Robert Griffiths and Nina Cohen
E/W Judi Lawson and Dan O'Farrell

SCBA Bridge & Cream Tea @ Leith Hill Place

A Perfect Afternoon in the Surrey Hills

A delightful mix of competitive bridge, National Trust charm, and traditional English cream tea awaits on **Wednesday 2 September 2026**, when players gather at **Leith Hill Place** for an afternoon organised by Tony Cherrett on behalf of **SCBA**. The setting is one of the most picturesque corners of the Surrey Hills, creating an inviting backdrop for a relaxed yet engaging event.

The bridge session begins at **1:00 PM**, with players settling in for **24 boards** of friendly play. The atmosphere is designed to welcome both seasoned competitors and those who simply enjoy the social side of the game. Entry is **£20 per player**, anyone seeking a partner or further information can contact **annasimpsonbridge@gmail.com**.

For those who want to extend the experience, an optional morning walk is available before the bridge begins. The route highlights the natural beauty surrounding Leith Hill and offers a refreshing start to the day; the full route can be viewed via the **walk route**, available on bridgewebs.com

Leith Hill Place itself, a National Trust property rich in history and framed by sweeping views, provides an inspiring venue for an afternoon of cards and conversation. Parking is available at the **Rhododendron Wood car park (RH5 6LU)**, just a short and scenic walk from the house.

And finally.....

The next newsletter will come out towards the end of September. 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