



SUSSEX COUNTY

Contract Bridge Association



Newsletter — June 2009

Editor - Bryan Stephens - karladog@tesco.net

Vida is no Outsider

A Sussex Grand Master, Vida Bingham, the owner of this year's Grand National winner, outsider Mon Mome, sitting in her garden in East Sussex next to the winner's trophy. Vida has been playing bridge for over 42 years. The last 13 years her regular partner has been Nigel Osmer, playing at the Tunbridge Wells club and other clubs, but for the previous 20 years, Vida's partner was the then very well known Dimmie Fleming who at her death in 1996 was the only woman ever to have played for Great Britain in an international open event.



Some time before the successful partnership with Dimmie was formed, Vida bumped into Dimmie at Plumpton race course and invited her into the member's enclosure for coffee. At first Dimmie declined but later the temptation of chocolate cake persuaded her to join Vida from which a strong relationship developed. Dimmie asked Vida to partner her at the bridge table but Vida was hesitant at first because of her relative inexperience but later the partnership was formed which lasted 20 years. Further notes about Dimmie can be found on page 8.

Vida has had many successes at the bridge table, mostly in teams events. The Whitelaw Cup and represented England in the Lady Milne Trophy plus successes several times in Jersey, Croydon and Tenby. Vida was successful in pairs and teams in the Isle of Man Congress and in an international event in Portugal. In 2001 Vida and Nigel Osmer won the EBU Veterans Pairs Championship and last year they won the Kent Pairs Congress. This spring they came second in the Championship Pairs at the Sussex Congress and in April this year they won the Mixed Pairs Final.

Not only does Vida know her bridge very well at that but not many of you will know that Vida was the inspiration behind the plastic card boards widely used today in duplicate bridge. In 1934 Dimmie married Arthur Leslie Fleming (preferred to be called Leslie) who had established the well known bridge stationery business and Dimmie and Vida continued in business together after Leslie's death until the business was sold in 1987. The business was just 'ticking over' when Leslie died but urged on by Vida's husband Tom to continue the business, the revival came from Vida who designed the moulds for the boards which became known as the Fleming Boards and which were sold not only in this country but abroad. The plastic boards replaced the pockets, leather wallets and the earlier wooden boards.

I had the pleasure of meeting Vida at her home and touching that famous trophy. Vida is a charming lady and I hope her successes will continue for many years to come. (Ed).

Something from your Editor

"Well done – when I opened my envelope from Sussex County and caught sight of the new newsletter I was very impressed and immediately felt the need to turn the pages and read and digest the contents. The layout is pleasing to the eye and well spaced articles and plenty of colour. Keep up the good work. I had to turn to page 8 to find out about the new Editor – a minor hiccup!"

This was one of several very gratifying emails I received. You seem to have liked the new format but as to your liking my invitations for you to make a contribution, I think the answer is most definitely NO because the response I had to five aspects of the newsletter was, to say the least, disappointing.



Page 1 – Debatable – Leading a singleton trump at the outset against a suit contract. I had just two replies and both said – never. I asked the question because over the years I have come across many folk who lead a singleton trump as a matter of course without thought that the lead could well be to the declarer's advantage and maybe upset partner's trump holding.

Page 11 - Opening 1nt with other than a very miserable 5 card major and on

Page 13 - Should South have responded stop 7d? No response at all.

I have little idea as to whether the crossword is of any interest. Going by the 3/1500 response I had I wonder whether it is worth the time and effort in compilation. I've compiled another crossword for this issue but if the response is poor then the crossword will go. I must however be fair. It is possible the crossword is popular but I'm not being told. If you want another crossword or think it should be continued please email me – karladog@tesco.net

Oh by the way my wife Margaret and I played bridge yesterday and I do believe she is starting to turn the corner. When I doubled my RHO 1nt opening she looked enquiringly at me and said "does that mean you've got a strong hand? There is some hope.

Stop press – June 2nd – I gather from Jackie Clinton that the picture of Vida and that famous trophy on the front page is similar if not the same picture as printed in English Bridge. I got the picture a few days after the Grand National, possibly before the EBU but am I sad that English Bridge have stolen my thunder? Certainly not. C'est la vie.

From the Pen of your Chairman



Dear All, Here I am, starting my third year as Chairman. There's much to do with Universal Membership just round the corner and I stress—if any member or club would like any help please ask because your Committee is here to assist.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our Green Point event in July and not forgetting our SCCBA Swiss Pairs on June 28th. I am eagerly awaiting your entries to this event and please remember, if you do not have an entry form they are always available on our web-site.

This year our Autumn Congress has a new venue at Patcham which I hope you will support being our first open Congress. The Devonshire Cup has had a make-over and will be played as a one day event on November 8th at Patcham Bridge Club.

I did enjoy Bryan's first newsletter as many of you did but I gather the feedback on most of Bryan's invitations for comment was poor considering the print run of 1500. Please do send your comments and articles. Spring weather has been very welcome and I wish you all a very good summer, whether at bridge or away. Kind regards Jackie Clinton.

What!!! Using Stayman with a Yarborough

Last year I ran a bridge workshop for those members of a local bridge club who felt they needed a bit of a brush-up on some of the intricacies which make bridge interesting and one question I asked the group of 27 was "what is the least number of points needed to use Stayman?" Everybody in the room seemed to say eleven in concert. Later a lady who has played bridge for many years and a good player asked me the same question and was amazed as were the workshop folk when I told her that Stayman could be used having no points at all. A couple of minutes later I saw her having a confab with three other ladies at her table in what looked like a rugby scrum.

Take this example. You hold this hand and your partner opens 1nt. Without Stayman or transfers the response is 2s as a weak take-out. Using Stayman you reply 2c and if your partner says 2d, negative, then you bid 2s. If your partner bids 2h or 2s then you pass. Shame if you respond 2s as a weak take-out and then find your partner has two spades and four hearts. Ed.

♠	97642
♥	8652
♦	752
♣	6

Results

SCCBA – Basic Bridge Pairs -4th Jan

Jackie Clinton & Charles Endean

Bob Best & Sue Best

Roger Blackburn & Zenon Niznik

New Year Swiss Teams - 11th Jan.

John Williams & Philip Hunt

Mike Keeping & Matt Read

Dave Franklin & Gerry Stanford

Richard Fedrick & Mick Carrington

Chris Bainham & Jean Smallwood

Eddie Lucioni & Tim Greenhill

Elizabeth North Trophy Final 18 Jan

J. Cobbett & A. Gover

S. Dennison & S. Gunham

David Williams & Ed Barter

Alan Gardiner & Rob Harris

Bryan Thwaites & Alan Vanderluis

Peter Gannon & Irene Gannon

SCCBA Charity Pairs – Merged

Brian Loasby & Ron Buddery

Reg Underwood & B. Attwood

Roger Pyart & Valerie Benson

SCCBA Individual Final - 1st Feb.

Ivor Harrison – 1st

Terry Woodbine – 2nd

Linda Southward – 3rd

Senior Simultaneous Pairs -11th Feb

Gerry Stanford & Dave Franklin

Alex Harding & Rick Stevens

Pat Carter & Patricia Sclanders

David Pavey Final

14th Feb.

David Hewer &

Roy Hamilton

Thanks to Valerie

Chandler for the photo

Ian Sanderson & Mary Brzezicki

Hazel Beveridge & Lindy Collinge



David
Pavey
Final
At
Worthing
Bridge
Club



Kremer Dersche Trophy - 15th Feb.

Avenue Bridge Club

Framfield Bridge Club

Eastbourne Bridge Club

SCCBA Teams of Eight - 1st March

1st - Avenue Bridge Club

2nd – West Sussex Bridge Club

3rd – Horsham Bridge Club

Basic Bridge Pairs – 4th April

Inez Richards & Mike Ford

Tricia & Ken Bolton

Barbara Jenner & Barbara Thompson

Sussex Pairs Final - 5th April

1st Dave Clifton & Chris Jepson.

Pictured here with Piers Pennant



Peter Clinch &
Julian Mitchell

Neil Watts &
Nigel Urban

Spring Congress Results

SCCBA Ladies Pairs.

Andrea Galpin & Joan Hootman
Valerie Benson & Muriel Bailey
Tilly Hennings & Fran Thornton

SCCBA Afternoon Basic Bridge Pairs.

John & Linda Taylor
Andrew Cairns & Tricia Orange
Judy Taylor & Lynne Spooner

SCCBA Multiple Teams

Tim Greenhill & Alex Harding
Eddie Lucioni & Rick Stevens

Karen & Malcolm Pryor
Duncan Curtis & Andy Morris

SCCBA Evening Basic Bridge Pairs

In joint first place

Mo Etherington Sue Baker &
& Beryl Pitman Roland Heathfield
Then John Bushell & Ken Robinson

SCCBA Mixed Pairs

Mike Keeping &
Janet Cattermole
With our Chairman

Pyers Pennant &
Diana Stevens



Karen & Malcolm Pryor and
Anthony Whiteway & Tilly Hennings.

SCCBA - Swiss Pairs

Dave Franklin & Gerry Stanford
Mike Dancy & Amanda Bolton

SCCBA – Congress Swiss Teams

Dave Franklin & Gerry Stanford
Richard Fedrick & Mick Carrington

Chris Jepson & Liz Lancaster
John Frosztega & Ian Lancaster

Other Results

SCCBA Welcome Pairs – 18th April

Josephine Forrester & Gloria Flint
Geoff & Pat Webb

SCCBA Mixed Pairs Final 26th April

Vida Bingham
Nigel Osmer
with May Langmaid



2nd place –
Malcolm &
Karen Pryor

SCCBA/EBU – Swiss Pairs 16th May

Howard Melbourne & Ros Wolfarth



Pictured
centre and right
In 2nd place were
Mike Davies &
Jill Armstrong
& in 3rd place
Gary Hyett &
Geoff Wolfarth

Championship Teams 2008/09

Andy Morris
Malcolm &
Karen Pryor
Duncan Curtis



27th September

*is the closing date for any
insertions in the October issue*

karladog@tesco.net

Andrew Robson asks

The bidding has proceeded
(contested): (1♠) - 1♥ - (1♠) - ?

♠ AQ32

♥ J107

♦ 72

♣ K432

What would you
bid, your partner
having bid 1♥ as an
overcall, holding
this hand?

Answer page 14

Some Little Snippets at the Table



"Some players
might have led their Ace against 7nt"

"Yes of course I saw you signal for a
spade but I did not want to underlead
King doubleton."

East "I can hear them discussing their
hands at the next table"

West leaning forward "Speak up dear I
can't hear what you're saying."

"My doubling the 1nt was for take-out.
Now look at the mess we're in."

*The best way to get your
club news into the next
issue in Oct. is to email
karladog@tesco.net*

"Only a man could leave an
empty bowl in the fridge"

Margaret Stephens—12.05.09
referring to you know who.

Attention — Sussex Juniors

This August there will be a
REALLY EASY CONGRESS
at the EBU Summer Congress
17/19th August
and whoopee its

FREE OF CHARGE

St Barnabas Charity Pairs Sunday 1st Nov.

Henfield are hosting their 7th Charity Pairs event
for the Worthing Cancer Hospice in The Henfield
Hall. The 11.30 – 3.30 time-slot remains the same
as does the excellent ploughman's lunch prepared
by the Henfield Friends of St Barnabas

The event, which last year raised a record £2023
from table money, a raffle, donations and a
matched donation from the Abbey National
Charitable Trust, will again be run as a Basic
Bridge single session event using duplimated
boards kindly donated by the County.

Entry forms will be sent to Club Secretaries and
be available as a download from the Henfield
website www.henfieldduplicatebridge.org.uk or
from the organiser Bob Whiting (details below).
Entry is a minimum of £11 per player. Donations
may be sent by post to the organiser or made on
the day of the event.

Please make a date to join us as we attempt to
break through £10,000 raised by the event over
the 7 years.

For further details, contact Bob Whiting on 01403
711707 or email at b.ww@btopenworld.com.

On the Qui Vive is an expression that comes to mind when one of my partners waves the alert card at right ear level to attract, so it seems, the attention of a person or persons behind her across the other side of the room, as if to put them on notice to be alert and vigilant because something violent is about to happen at the table. I sometimes sarcastically look across the room beyond my partner to see if she has in fact attracted the attention of anyone other than the opponents at the table to whom the alert card should have been addressed. I assume it is the alert card only because of the colour but even then I am sometimes confused because the 'redouble' is sometimes pulled out as an alert. Have you noticed there is often a definite hinge about 1.5cm long under the letter A on many alert cards obviously used in the past as a fan in the way described.



Then there is the other extreme when the alerting player pulls the alert card from the bidding box in a very exaggerated manner as if giving a demonstration as to how an alert card should be displayed. The card then takes a circular route round the table and is flapped quite close to each player in turn almost inciting them to take some action. Then there is the player who signifies an alert by lifting the alert card about an inch but not actually removing the card from the bidding box. As far as the other players are concerned it could be a stop card, a double or even 7nt but that is surely better I suppose, than the person who takes no action at all and then suffers that penetrating stare from members of the opposition who often exhibit an attitude of superior virtue.

And then of course, there's me. 'thinks he knows it all', 'Mr Perfect' according to my wife Margaret, who is still trying to get to grips with the strong 2c opening bid, amongst many other things, which invariably causes her to ask '*am I supposed to do something?*' My answer, incorporating my opinion as to the correct use of the alert card usually causes her to accuse me of being sarcastic which of course I am not. Oh yes, and talking about the alert card, she takes exception to the tone in my voice when politely pointing out to her that it is normally the partner of the player who made the alertable bid who actually alerts.

To settle the matter I have asked one of our tournament directors to state how the alert card from the bidding box should be used and notes from his reply are as follows:

It is responsibility of the alerting player to ensure that both opponents are aware of the alert which should be made immediately following the alertable bid — before any bid by the RHO who has the right to enquire of the alerting player the meaning of the bid. The alert card should be placed in such a position that both opponents have easy viewing access. Now a word in general about the bidding box. Bidding cards should be used without emphasis and players should refrain from touching any cards in the box until they have determined their call. Ed

Maurice Weissberger

By Matthew Hoskins

Maurice Weissberger died on 3rd March, just short of his 90th birthday. He had been one of Great Britain's finest players both in domestic and international competitions.

Internationally, his best result was finishing second with the late Joan Durran in the World Mixed Pairs in 1966. This, along with numerous other good performances, helped him become one of the very few British players ever to achieve the World Bridge Federation's rank of World Master. The pinnacle of his outstanding domestic record was achieving back to back wins in the Lederer Trophy in 1966/67. The list of Lederer winners reads like a who's who of world bridge, including more recent stars like Tony Forrester and Zia Mahmood.

Ed. Regrets a photograph of Maurice was not available at the time of going to print

As a bridge theorist, Maurice invented the convention known as "extended Stayman", where, if the auction begins 1nt-2c-2d, then a bid of 3d asks the 1nt opener to show if he has one or both 3 card majors.

Maurice was still playing rubber bridge at the Avenue Bridge Club shortly before his death, where he enjoyed enormous respect and affection. Following Joan's death in 2005, Maurice donated a cup in her memory to the County. The Durran Weissberger Cup is awarded annually to the winners of the first division of the County League. It is fitting that the County should have this permanent reminder of two of its most talented and successful players.

Dimmie Fleming who Partnered Vida Bingham for 20 years, died aged 85 in 1996 and was for almost 20 years "Mrs Bridge" running the English Bridge Union from her home as secretary. Selected for the British team in 1939 and after the war was selected another nine times for the British woman's team in the European Championships, taking the gold Cup in 1951, 1952, 1959 and 1962. She also played in two women's Team Olympiads in 1960 and 1964 and winning in New York on the second occasion. Dimmie's real name was Phyllis Irene but in school it was fashionable to take a boys name and she took the name Jimmy but later all girls took nick names with the initial letter D thus Dimmie. She learnt bridge at school when aged 9 but it was not until she was aged 19 that the interest in bridge took off when she met a young man in America who taught her the Culbertson's system and she was hooked.

In the
November
Newsletter.

Hopefully

An interesting
story about
the Whitelaw
Cup

Dennis Crouch

By May Langmaid.

Dennis Crouch, a true gentleman of bridge, died on Saturday 10th January. He will be sadly missed. Dennis started his bridge career playing on his train journeys to work and at Haywards Heath Golf Club with Tom Bradley in the 60's. Their enthusiasm was such that they decided to try playing duplicate bridge and joined the Weald Club. Before long Dennis was elected chairman. He and Tom also branched out and started the West Sussex School of Bridge. Dennis' ambition and enthusiasm for the game gave many bridge players a good start.



In the early 70's, Dennis resigned from the Weald Bridge Club and he and Tom Bradley struck out and introduced duplicate sessions at The Cricketers Pub in Burgess Hill, mainly for their students.

In the late 70's a move was made to Haywards Heath and the United Reform Church Hall, followed very soon by a move to the Birch Hotel. The club flourished and many of Dennis' friends from all over Sussex came to enjoy a game. Dennis still gave bridge lessons under the auspices of the West Sussex School of Bridge. His enthusiasm for the game was such that he, together with a strong club committee, organised minor congresses to introduce the competitive branch to their game.

In the early 80's, the West Sussex Bridge Club became a members' club and Dennis was elected Chairman then President/Life Member. After a nomadic journey, the club moved to its present home at Warden Park School in 1992. Dennis and Renie retired to Worthing in the early 90's where he still played regularly.

Dennis has held all the high honours at Club and County level, being nothing less than Chairman or President. In addition, in the 1980's, he was County Newsletter Editor. In 1993 he was presented with the prestigious Dimmie Fleming award. I believe he was the first Sussex person to be so presented.

This summary does not fully reflect a gentleman who shared his knowledge and enthusiasm for the game and encouraged others with courtesy and good humour.

Your Editor being argumentative about an Unearned Top

Rules are Rules—BUT

On round six a club is led from North dummy, East follows, declarer ruffs. West over-ruffs and immediately leads a club. The director is called who will inevitably say that a trick is to be given away with another, if in fact another trick is made by the offender. Such a silly little mistake yet a handsome reward for the declarer, who may, as a result, achieve an unearned top.

The crux is that West produced a club immediately after the over-ruff; it was actually the next card played, so it would have been so easy for the declarer to politely point out the error of West's ways and continue without calling the director, not only interrupting the director's game but inevitably the game of every player at the table.

The Spirit of Bridge would have been maintained.

Had West produced the club later in the game, that's a different matter and the director should be called but there are, regretfully, some players who will take every advantage at every opportunity to win and will call the director for each little problem that arises.

What would your reaction be if you were the declarer playing a normal club session? Don't say rules are rules and should be strictly obeyed at all times. Rules are there for guidance and a sensible approach in accordance with the occasion and the circumstances should always prevail. Ed.

What say you? karladog@tesco.net

Dates for your Diary

<u>July 2009</u>		<u>Venue</u>	<u>Time</u>
3rd	SCCBA Invitation Pairs Round 4	West Sussex	7.30
5th	Open Swiss Teams	St Leonards	2.00
10/12th	EBU Summer Seniors & Veterans	Eastbourne	
19th	SCCBA/EBU One Day Green Pt.	H/Heath	1.00
26th	Open Swiss Pairs	Eastbourne	1.45

<u>August 2009</u>			
2nd	Open Swiss Teams	St.Leonards	2.00
11th	SCCBA Invitation Pairs Round 5	Avenue	7.30
14/23rd	EBU Summer Meeting	Brighton	
17/19th	EBU Really Easy Congress	Brighton	

<u>September 2009</u>			
6th	Open Swiss Teams	St Leonards	2.00
10th	SCCBA Invitation Paris Round 6	Eastbourne	7.30
13th	Metropolitan Cup	Ardingly	1.00
15th	David Pavey Heat	Horsham	7.30
18/20th	SCCBA Autumn Congress	Patcham	
22nd	Avenue Teams League	Avenue	7.30
24th	SCCBA Individual Heat	Eastbourne	7.30
24th	David Pavey Heat	Worthing	7.30
26/27th	One Day Green Pointed	Various	
27th	Open Swiss Teams	Eastbourne	1.45
28th	Sussex Pairs Heat	Avenue	7.30

<u>October 2009</u>			
1st	David Pavey Heat	Patcham	2.00
1st	David Pavey Heat	West Sussex	7.30
9th	SCCBA Invitation Pairs Round 7	West Sussex	7.30
14th	Sussex Pairs Heat	Eastbourne	7.30
14th	Sussex Pairs Heat	West Sussex	7.30
15th	David Pavey Heat	Bognor	6.45
15th	Elizabeth North Heat	Worthing	7.30
16th	Sussex Pairs Heat	Crowborough	7.30
18th	Bupa Swiss Teams	Bexhill	2.00
21st	Elizabeth North Heat	Horsham	7.30
23rd	Mixed Pairs Heat	Worthing	7.30
25th	Open Swiss Teams	Eastbourne	1.45
26th	David Pavey Heat	Avenue	7.30
30th	Sussex Pairs Heat	Horsham	7.30

Simultaneous Pairs Events at Clubs

27th & 28th July - BGB

27th August—1066

14th & 15 Sept —EBU

14th & 15th October—BGB

SCCBA Management Committee Meetings

24th July at Henfield—7pm

18th October at West Sussex—10.30 am

The Kremer Dersch Trophy. An annual competition in which all clubs in East and West Sussex are invited to send a team from their committee to compete and two teams from the County Committee also take part. A competitive but social event where many ideas can be discussed. This year the event was held on Sunday 15th February. The winners were Avenue Bridge Club, achieving 56 imps followed by Framfield Bridge Club, 39 imps then the hosts, with 33 imps, the Eastbourne Bridge Club who provided an excellent lunch. Some history of the names Kremer and Dersch will be of interest to many and I am grateful for information provided by Margaret Buddery and Muriel Bailey.



Before moving to Brighton some 40 years ago, Bertha, the first Yorkshire woman to win international honours and her husband Aubrey Dersch, a solicitor, played bridge for Yorkshire and for England against Ireland and Scotland. They never lost a match. The black & white photograph shows Bertha & Aubrey and the two gents are likely to be their other team members Harold Franklin and Bobby Mercado. Aubrey died in 1963 and their only daughter died the same year. Bertha later



married Mark Dersch. It must have been true love because Mark was not a bridge player but the pair hosted many bridge parties in their Brighton Marine Gate apartment. Mark died some two years ago. With failing eyesight Bertha, now 99, moved to London NW8. In spite of having a mind like a razor, Bertha was always very courteous and had an unruffled demeanour. This is a recent picture of Bertha kindly provided by Muriel Bailey following a visit to London in March this year. Photographs of earlier years are below

Bertha and partner J. Hockwald were one of seven pairs to qualify for the final of the World Mixed Pairs Championship held in Amsterdam (date & result missing). The other six pairs were Maurice Weissberger & Mrs G. A. Durran, Mr & Mrs S.W. Thomas, G.C..H. Fox & Mrs B.M.Harris, R.A. Priday & Mrs J. Juan, C Rodrigue & Mrs F. Gordon, J. Tarlo & Mrs P. Albuquerque.

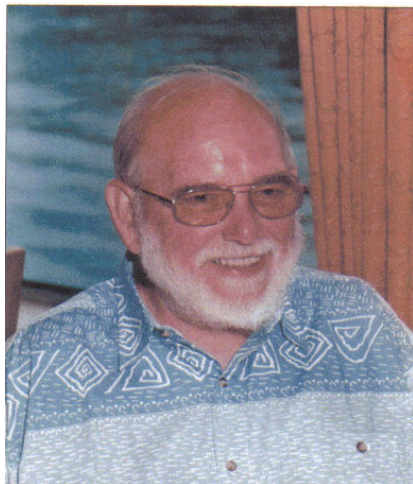


There is in existence The Aubrey and Bertha Kremer and Mark Dersch Charitable Trust for the provision of scholarships to be called "Valerie Kremer Scholarship" in any faculty of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem for graduates and undergraduates to be held in any part of the world. (Ed)



Chris Bainham

A member of the Crowborough Bridge Club, died on 2nd March as is sadly missed. For 35 years, Chris was a stalwart of the club. He was the leading director and the team organiser. Bridge was his main interest and he represented Sussex several times through the years in the Metropolitan Cup, Corbett Cup, Daily Telegraph Cup and South East Counties League.



Chris taught at Sir Henry Fermor Primary School for over 20 years and retired in the mid 1990's. He ran a popular chess club, attracting a large number of pupils and his chess teams were known and respected throughout Sussex and beyond. The Fermor School team won the annual county championship about 10 times and the girls team also won the same number of county championships. There were successes in many individual competitions and the players made up a dominant force in Sussex primary school chess during Chris' career at the school.

During the mid 70's to the early 80's Chris and Tim Greenhill were regular bridge partners using the then fashionable Precision system and later Chris played with a variety of partners, Trevor Bird, Magnus Berger, Vida Bingham and John Murrell to name just four. In the mid 90's Tim and Chris got back playing again but on a less regular basis and amongst his other partners were Tony Roxburgh, Jean Smallwood and Marlene Clare but over the last decade his main partner was Eddie Lucioni and they enjoyed great success. One highlight was winning the County Pairs championship and another was being part of the team that won the SCCBA/EBU green point teams event at Ardingly. What made Chris a winner was his ability to concentrate.

Much of this information was kindly provided by Tim Greenhill, but thanks also go to Magnus Berger who kindly informed me that Chris was a very keen bell ringer and was captain of the bell ringing team at Wadhurst and Wednesday evening was a definite no no for bridge. He used to visit churches all over England and would sometimes be away for weeks at a time. Chris led a very full life. Bird watching and steam trains were other interests but a triple heart bypass operation was to lead to his early death at age 65 and our sympathies are with his wife Ann.

Adur Valley Bridge Clubs swells its ranks

by Bob Whiting

Formed in January this year by husband and wife team Bob & Kathy Whiting, when they were invited to take over the successful Storrington Duplicate Bridge Club from Beryl Pitman, Adur Valley BC has since expanded.

In mid March a new venture to provide a local EBU affiliated club for Shoreham & Southwick opened at the Southwick Community Centre amidst a splash of local press. Initial response was better than expected and the club's base moved to The Hall of The Church of The Good Shepherd, Kings Walk, Shoreham Beach (pictured) after only three weeks. A larger, brighter venue with easy parking saw numbers rise again, to the sound of the nearby sea washing away the frustrations born of defeated contracts. With a comfortable capacity of 12 tables, Bob, Kathy and regular director Roger Stevens look forward to a thriving club for many years ahead. Visitors and new members are always welcome. Shoreham & Southwick is open Tuesday afternoons 1.30 – 4.30.




On hearing rumours of a demand for bridge lessons in the Adur Valley, Partridge Green Village Hall became the home of Adur Valley's Partridge Green Teaching Club towards the end of April, for players with a minimum of one year's experience. Run by Bob and long time partner Hugh Doohan, who between them have nearly 90 years experience in the game, the teaching club is open all year round. Specific blocks of lessons are predefined and booked in advance either in full or by the lesson. Between the lesson blocks, open assisted play sessions are run with help available on bidding, conventions, play strategy and matters of table etiquette while a hand is still in play. The emphasis is on learning, understanding and enjoyment and new students are always welcome. Partridge Green is open Wednesday afternoons 2.00 – 4.00.

STOP PRESS

In future your
newsletter will
be distributed to
you by your club.

All Adur Valley sessions operate a host system, which Bob believes is one of the secrets of success. "We have had as many as seven people arrive without partners," he says, "and you don't need to be a bridge player to know what an extra two tables mean..."

Details of the three venues' sessions and lessons are on the Adur Valley website www.adurbridge.org.uk, which also hosts the results of Beryl Pitman's Keymer Bridge Club, or from Kathy & Bob Whiting on 01403 711707.

 On the one hand
some expressions of
guilt as the dummy
hand is being tabled?

"I'm afraid this is not the hand I told
you about during the bidding."

"We must discuss whether your 2 heart
bid is forcing in that sequence."

"You're going to murder me - again"

The Horsham Cup Winners



The Horsham Cup for the West Sussex Inter Club League was won this year by a team from Horsham Bridge Club for only the second time since its introduction in 1996. A close final resulted in Horsham beating The Avenue by only 3 IMPS.

The photo shows (left-right) Bryan Davies, Richard Shuker, Val Atkins, Jane Ross, Phil Blackmore and Chris Simmons. Eve Fegredo and Jan Millar also took part in the final and other team members who contributed to wins during the winter were Georgie Hall, Angela Barker, Dodi Crook and Tony Sanders.

On the other
hand are these
expressions of
pride as the
dummy hand is being tabled.



"I've got a lovely shape" said one gent,
to which the male declarer replied
"I do like nice shapes".

"You're going to like what I've got here."

"Not much to start with but you've got a
nice surprise coming."

Andrew Robson's words in answer to his problem posed on page 6.

2♣. First of all, you have a known heart fit (partner will not overcall with fewer than five cards). It is imperative that you support, the bid partner will be hoping for (do not even think about no trumps, just because you have both opposing black suits stopped). Rather than bidding 2♥, though, you should make an unassuming cue bid of 2♣, showing a good heart raise (about 9/10+ points and three+ hearts)

The "UCB" - opener's suit at the lowest level—is my absolute favourite convention—on grounds of frequency. It happens all the time. Its chief merit is that it enables you to support with next-to-nothing and partner will not get over-excited (you would have made a UCB with a decent hand).

In case you were wondering why such a cue-bid is "unassuming", it is because the bid (of opener's suit) assumes nothing about your holding in that suit.

First across the line with the correct answers to Feb. crossword was **Roger Poulter—Eastbourne Bridge Club.** Followed by Ken Shillam Worthing B/Club and Ed. Barter W/Sussex Bridge Club

We've been together now for ? Years.

Philip Poulter & Duncan Quibell have been playing together since 1962 when they were in a team with Sandra Landy and the late Ron Broadhurst. They played in all the national competitions and won the Hubert Philips Bowl several times. They still play together in the Champteams and Gold Cup but not so much club bridge these days as Duncan spends a lot of time in France. Their home club is the Avenue.

Rick Stevens & Alex Harding - 39 years. (What about you and your partner?)



The ABCD Bridge Club at Henfield celebrate 21 years. Founder members present included 87 year old Jimmy Muir, pictured left and regulars on Friday afternoons, Kate Lightowler, Ann Nelson and Terry Kelly. Pictured right, a gent. many folk will recognise. Doug Pennifold, a long standing member, a club director and treasurer.



ABCD clubroom. Pictured at the foreground table is the youngest Mary Guy-Jones, partnering Mike Gobey, who is a regular at the Avenue and 90 year old Joan Sanders who was featured in the Feb. newsletter.

Feb. Crossword Answers.

Across

1. Grand Master
7. Agree
8. Marked Ace
10. January
11. Split up
12. Deuce
13. Attitudes
16. Cassandra.
18. Cupid
19. Talipes
22. Stamina
23. Sacrifice
24. Board
25. Misconstrue.

Down

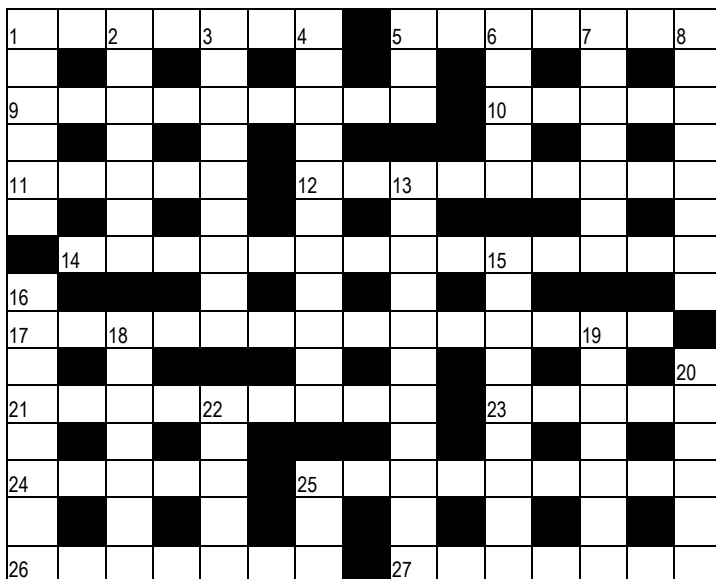
1. Geraniums
2. Average
3. Dummy hand
4. Acres
5. The flat
6. React
7. Adjudicates
9. Exposed card
14. Transfers
15. Duplicate
17. Applies
18. Chamber
20. Locum
21. Sligo

SCCBA June 09

CROSSWORD-2

Many answers are Bridge related. Send your solution, your name and name of your club to karladog@tesco.net and the prize for the correct answers is **fame**. Your name and club will be mentioned in the next newsletter. Also Email if you just want the solution or if you are stuck on any of the clues.

The February solution is on page 15



Across

1. Felis Catus starts inflammation of a mucous membrane. (7)
5. Initially 5 down but then perhaps something no longer in fashion with a cute accent in the end but does that lead you up a blind alley? (7)
9. Do you do this between the sheets longer than intended? (4.5)
10. Often causing the director to shhh. (5)
11. Spiced rice described. (5)
12. Describes a painting by one of the great painters of the period —1500-1800. (3.6.)
14. The mere mention of an old surname at the Rovers Return could do just that. (3.3.4.4.)
17. You would not normally open no-trumps without one of these. (5.4.5.)
21. HCP's + trumps equals this as a rule after a weak 2 opening. (9)
23. Very unfriendly defender perhaps.(5)
24. Monsters in the gorse. (5)
25. Perhaps the opener would prefer to bid *misère ouverte* with this one. (5.4)
26. Ralph Waldo Leader of the transcendentalist movement. (7)
27. Describes the unpredictable bidding of some players. (7)

Down

1. Often describes sea water. (6)
2. They are half as much again as a double. (7)
3. Make again. (9)
4. Grahame Hore turned with excessive leakage of the red stuff. (11)
5. This familiar acronym is a naughty fairy.(3)
6. Ailuropodia Melanoleuca. (5)
7. Certainly does not sound like a lion and a lion does not have a tail that curls over its back. (4.3)
8. You will feel a loathing for sb.or sth. After a container follows this west country waterway.(8)
13. Superior decorated Saxony porcelain. (7.4)
15. It is company to 4 hands betwixt tables but left alone when the hands are played. (9)
16. Instrument used to examine the external canal of the ear. (8)
18. A no-trump or a suit going the other way. (7)
19. Crave to become an exaggerated stage performance. (7)
20. A business agent. (6)
22. An attempt to accomplish an aim or goal.(5)
25. An act, a thought or behaviour that goes against the law. My partner often thinks of this when my dummy hand goes down. (3)

Your editor can be reached at karladog@tesco.net or 01903 772325