

## Dates for your Diary

### February 2007

- 1 EBU Overseas Congress Cyprus
- 3 David Pavey Final Worthing 1.00
- 4 St. Leonards Open Swiss Teams 2.00
- 11 SCCBA Teams of Eight Eastbourne 1.00
- 14 Seniors Sim Pairs Clubs
- 18 Sussex Pairs Semi-final Avenue 1.00
- 24 Sussex Individual Final Worthing 1.00
- 25 Eastbourne Open Swiss Teams 1.45

### March 2007

- 4 Sussex Pairs Semi-finals Eastbourne and Worthing 1.00
- 5 St. Leonards Open Swiss Teams 2.00
- 6 Mixed Pairs Heat Eastbourne 7.30
- 17 Elisabeth North Final Worthing 1.00
- 25 Eastbourne Open Swiss Teams 1.45

### April 2007

- 1 Sussex Pairs Final West Sussex 1.00
- 12 Invitation Pairs Rd 1 Eastbourne 7.30
- 15 SCCBA Kremer Dersch Eastbourne 1.00
- 20-22 SCCBA Spring Congress Uckfield
- 21 SCCBA Welcome Pairs Uckfield
- 22 SCCBA Annual General Meeting 12.00
- 21-22 National Pairs Final
- 27-6 May Jersey Festival of Bridge
- 28 Mixed Pairs Semi-finals 1.00
- 29 Eastbourne Open Swiss Teams 1.45

### May 2007

- 4 Fri Invitation Pairs Round 2 West Sussex 1940
- 12 Sat EBU/SCCBA Swiss Pairs Ardingly 1.00
- 13 Sun EBU One day Events Various
- 19 Sat EBU Garden Cities Regional Final Richmond
- 20 Sun Metropolitan Cup Ardingly 1.00
- 26 Sat Mixed Pairs Final West Sussex 1.00
- EBU Spring bank Holiday Congress Bourne-mouth 26th - 28th
- 27 Sun Eastbourne Open Swiss Teams Eastbourne 1.45

### June 2007

- 2 EBU Corwen Trophy Kettering
- 3 Henfield Candles Swiss Teams Henfield
- 4 Invitation Pairs Round 3 Avenue 1940
- 9 EBU Pachabo Cup Kettering 9th - 10th
- 10 SCCBA Novice Swiss Teams Keymer 1.00
- 16 EBU One day Events Various
- 17 EBU One day Events Various
- 22 EBU Northern Seniors Congress Harrogate 22nd - 24th
- 23 EBU Garden Cities Final Kettering
- 24 SCCBA Swiss Pairs Ardingly 1.00
- 29 EBU English Riviera Congress Torquay

### July 2007

- 1 Venture Pairs Henfield Hall
- 5 Invitation Pairs Round 4 Eastbourne 1940
- 6 EBU Summer Seniors & Veterans Congress Eastbourne 6th - 8th
- 15 Basic Bridge Pairs Hastings St Leonards 11.00
- 21 EBU One Day Events Various
- 22 EBU/SCCBA Swiss Teams Hove 1.00
- 26 EBU Northern Summer Congress Scarborough 26th - 29th

### August 2007

- 2 Invitation Pairs Round 5 Avenue 1940
- 10 EBU Brighton Summer Congress Brighton 10th - 19th

### September 2007

- 7 Invitation Pairs Round 6 West Sussex 1940
- 21 SCCBA Autumn Congress Steyning
- 22 SCCBA Autumn Congress Steyning
- 23 SCCBA Autumn Congress Steyning
- 29 EBU One Day Events Various
- 30 EBU One Day Events Various

If you would like to contribute to or comment about the newsletter please contact Sally Bugden on 01273 890285 or email [sbugden@redacres.demon.co.uk](mailto:sbugden@redacres.demon.co.uk).



## From The Chairman

The next important event in the Bridge Calendar is the Spring Congress In Uckfield from the 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> April. This event also hosts the AGM and this meeting will be my last as your County Chairman. The 5 year rule was introduced by the committee and we now have the testing time to see how the new system will work. Over the years I have had the pleasure of working with a fine committee and all members have given their time and friendship to make what can be quite a daunting task, into one of much enjoyment. To each and every one my special thanks. I also thank my colleagues who are not on the Committee for your support. Sussex Bridge would not survive without the enormous contribution from these people. As always my main aim has been to get as many people as possible to play and enjoy their Bridge and I hope we have gone some way to achieving this. I look forward to seeing you at the AGM. It's your chance to join the Committee and play a part in running Sussex Bridge. Why not let 2007 be the year that you give something back for all the years of pleasure bridge has given you? Your County needs you! Thank you all.



## Venture Pairs

**The County is launching a new one-day event on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2007 for players who have earned fewer than 2500 Master Points**

The Venture Pairs is aimed at players who are either new to the game or new to the concept of congresses. It is intended as a stepping-stone between the Welcome Pairs at the Spring Congress in Uckfield and the Basic Bridge Pairs events held throughout the year. The event is ideally suited for the less experienced player partnered by a mentor or bridge teacher, but equally welcoming for pairs of less experienced players. Help will be on hand to give guidance and assistance on scoring and to answer general questions particularly where both members of a partnership feel in need of some extra help with these issues. An afternoon tea will be provided between the two sessions, which will be played at a gentle pace. The event will finish around 18.30 with the presentation of a trophy. At least one player in each pair must be below the rank of County Master (2500 Master Points) and at least one player must be a member of the EBU. Only conventions allowed under Basic Acol (level one), Standard English, or Simple Systems will be permitted. Entry forms are available from Bridge Teachers or the organiser: Bob Whiting (telephone 01403 711707, or (preferably) e-mail [b.wv@btpopenworld.com](mailto:b.wv@btpopenworld.com))

## Crediting Master Points Electronically

Those of you who have taken part in events run by the County during the past year are no doubt becoming used to Master Points being credited electronically (assuming that you've actually done well enough to win some of course!) This means that details of Master Point awards are emailed to the EBU soon after an event has finished. The EBU then registers these awards within the next 24 hours

Crediting Master Points electronically means that the County saves on the effort and cost of completing and posting certificates to EBU members. The only Master Point certificates that still need to be posted are those won by players who are not EBU members, e.g. in Basic Bridge events. Even these awards are printed locally, with all the necessary details included. To avoid confusion over players with similar (or even the same) names, the crediting of an award electronically involves sending his/her EBU number to the EBU as well as their name. Usually, these details can be generated automatically from the computer scoring program that the County uses, i.e. ScoreBridge. ScoreBridge has a database of players that has been built up over the past year, which contains each player's EBU number. To help those events which take place on set dates to run smoothly, this database is updated beforehand using details supplied on entry forms. Alternatively, these details can be obtained using table slips.

It is a great help to organisers if all players provide EBU numbers on entry forms or table slips whenever they are requested. First names, rather than initials, can also help avoid the extra effort required in sorting out who's who. Preferably, the first name by which a player is known to the EBU should be used.

If, after an event, you'd like to know how many Master Points you've won, you can usually find this out from the Results section of the County web-site. If Master Point details are not present (e.g. for events such as the Sussex League) or you don't have access to the Internet, please contact either the event organiser or myself.

Mervyn Wootton, Master Points Secretary

## Tollemache Team players win New Year Swiss Teams!

David Franklin, Gerry Stanford, Mick Carrington and Richard Fedrick won the New Year Swiss Teams event held at Henfield Hall on 14 January 2007. The players are also members of the Tollemache team which will be playing in the final at Kettering on 10 and 11 February 2007. Their other team members are Chris Jepson, Dave Clifton, Martin Pool, Ian Lancaster, Matthew Hoskins and Andrew Southwell. with David Galpin as NPC.

The second place was taken by a Surrey team Keith Ashcroft, Michael Prior, Malcolm and Karen Pryor and third place by Pyers Pennant, Simon Reade, David Howard-Houston and Bertie Wallace.

Non-expert winners were Margo Ayers, Joan Clifford, Jo Green and Deidre Pudney. Congratulations to all.

**Sally Bugden** has been elected to the post of Vice Chairman of the English Bridge Union. The county wish Sally very good luck in her new post.

## Focus on Teaching

The EBU has recently launched a new teaching initiative to assist teachers and students alike. We all know that it is virtually impossible for students, after just a few terms of learning to integrate into an established club environment which many of them, understandably, find intimidating and hostile. The EBU will give significant practical help to the teachers in setting up and running courses and to subsequently support the teacher in setting up playing provision for graduating students. It will also enable bridge students who enrol on beginners courses to optimise their investment by giving them the opportunity to further their enjoyment of the game and the community the courses have created, beyond the classroom.

Partner Teachers are taught the skills of how to build a bridge playing community by:

Learning how to recruit new students to the game  
Enabling the students to enjoy their early learning and club play in a relaxed, protected environment; from first lesson, through to a Learn and Play club and into their very own Partner Club making sure that all students are embraced by the community regardless of playing ability; Encouraging the students to have the confidence to progress from classroom and 'learn and play club' experiences to the wider bridge community.

If you feel that you would like to get involved in this initiative, please contact Sue Maxwell on 07710 867982 or email her at [sue@aylesburyvalebridge.com](mailto:sue@aylesburyvalebridge.com).

## Results Roundup:

### Ladies Pairs 29 October 2006

1st Maureen Norman and Sue Peters  
2nd Sandy Blunt and Brenda Garrini  
3rd Tilly Hennings and Fran Thornton

### Chairman's Cup 11 November 2006

1st Ian and Liz Lancaster  
2nd Leon Northeast and John Jackson  
3rd Colin Wilson and Diana Avis

### Basic Bridge Pairs 3 December 2006

1st Sue Baker and Maria Dufficy  
2nd Sue Dyball and Mike Rounds  
3rd Laurence Chiswell and Chris Reimoser

### Mens Pairs 29 October 2006

1st Duncan Curtis and Andy Morris  
2nd Mick Carrington and Richard Fedrick  
2nd David Cross and Ralph Thompson



*Duncan Curtis and Andy Morris*

### Devonshire Club Cup 10 December 2006

1st Magnus Berger, Eddie Lucioni, John Murrell and Jean Smallwood  
2nd Matthew Hoskins, Andrew Southwell, Mick Carrington and Dave Franklin  
**Devonshire Club Plate winners:** Geoffrey and Ros Wolfarth, Dave and Jill Armstrong

## East Sussex Bridge Club pip Burgess Hill Bridge Club

Ken Latty explains how his bridge club won through in a local radio competition....

Whilst having my usual afternoon sleep on Tuesday 14 November, Barbara took a call from Southern Counties Radio saying that they were running a series of competitions between clubs in East Sussex and West Sussex and next day they wanted to feature two bridge clubs. Would Ken Latty be prepared to take part?

Needless to say, Barbara readily volunteered me and so at 7.25 am on Wednesday morning I received the first call during which Lord Teviot (Charles on the programme) of Burgess Hill Bridge Club and I were introduced.

On the next call, at 7.55 am, I was given six questions. These were, more or less as I cannot remember exactly,

1. What is a Sputnik Double?
2. What happened for the first time on the beach at Bexhill?
3. Which footballer was known as crazy horse?
4. What was the queen's major engagement this week?
5. What word in the English language ends in mt?
6. A question about a film of which I had no knowledge!

Well, I managed to get four right - see back page for answers - one I got wrong and the film question I was totally lost with. It was all a little embarrassing as I had to admit I did not know the answer they were looking for on No 5 but I said there was a bridge word Pre-ent, and this was accepted. Of course, as soon as I put the phone down I realised what I had done so had to tell them at the start of the next call that I had got it wrong. Phew! Apparently they had already had a number of calls pointing out my stupidity!

At the third call, at 8.25 am, it was the turn of Lord Teviot to answer six questions, which I can hardly recall, and he too answered four correctly so it went to a tiebreak. The question was, "What topic was the queen going to cover for the first time in her speech at the opening of parliament?"

With a clue from the presenter I was able to come up with Climate Change, and so won our brief encounter. However, it must be said that Lord Teviot thought the tiebreak had been put just to me - as did I - and so made no effort to answer. I suspect had he realised it was for both of us I would now be saying Burgess Hill pipped East Sussex by a whisker!

It was all a bit of fun and gave bridge and our two clubs a little plug, and that can never be bad, and I have to say I was surprised at how many of our members were listening at that hour of the morning!

The answers to the quiz are as follows:

1. After partner opens a suit and right hand opponent overcalls with a suit, a Sputnik Double shows the other two suits. 2. Motor racing. 3. Emlyn Hughes. 4. Opening of parliament. 5. Dreamt.

## St Barnabas Pairs

Henfield Duplicate Bridge Society

The 4th Charity Pairs event for the Worthing Cancer Hospice held on 14th October was again well supported with fifteen tables in play. The Henfield Friends of St Barnabas provided an excellent ploughman's lunch and the whole Simple Systems event was played in an enjoyable, relaxed but competitive atmosphere watched over by our director Ian MacGregor.

Players arrived from all over the county with fifteen different clubs represented.

1st Christina Backholer & Iris Lee (West Sussex & Eastbourne) 62.57%

2nd Valerie Chandler & Laurence Chiswell (Worthing) 58.43%

3rd Ann Hamilton & Keith Setchell (Bognor) 57.14%

4th Kathy & Bob Whiting (Henfield) 56.66%

The net proceeds on the day amounted to £594 with an anticipated matched donation from the Abbey National Charitable Trust of a further £500, helping to clear the £1023 raised in 2005.

Our thanks go to the County for the loan of the duplicated boards and circulation of entry forms; to the catering team; our director and, of course, to all those who entered and made donations.

Next year's event is already in the planning stage. We are hoping to move to a larger venue to cater for all those who were not called on from our reserve list this year!

Bob Whiting

## Kool Mini Bridge Skool

Bridge is a game for the young! That at least is the view of players at West Sussex Bridge Club.

To show that Bridge really is a simple game suitable for young people, members will be running a Kool Mini-Bridge Skool on 27th January for 8-13 year olds.

Why Mini-Bridge? Well, it's a really quick game to learn. A new player can be playing a real, competitive game right away and be competing with 'real' bridge players on an equal footing very quickly!

So it's a terrific lead-in to "proper bridge".

It's such an enjoyable and entertaining game, that you could easily overlook the skills and abilities that Mini-Bridge helps to develop. These include concentration, decision-making, partnership co-operation and teamwork as well as skills in mental arithmetic, analytical thought and logical deduction and an understanding of probabilities. But most of all it's fun!

The expectation is that once the younger players have played the game they will be clamouring for more opportunities to play with their friends at home. Older players might be allowed to join in when the youngsters need a four!

If you wish to find out more please call 01444-453111.



## Unfashionable but Strangely Effective

The Swedish international Gunnar Hallberg (now resident in Brighton) gave a seminar at the Avenue Club, in which he dispensed some sage words on better bidding. One of his themes was on preempting style, and in particular the good results that can be created by being unusually strong.

This is an unfashionable view these days; the old Rule of 500 is now derided by those who favour a more aggressive (or for some, kamikaze) approach. I have tended to side with the modern camp, believing in general that an active style is a long-term winner, but a couple of recent deals, that perfectly exemplify Hallberg's tip, have given me food for thought.

The first deal is from the County Invitation Pairs, with Butler Imp-Pair scoring. You pick up this tasty selection, vulnerable against not in 4th seat: K1098xxxx, x, Qx, xx. The auction proceeds

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
3♦	4♥	5♦	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	???

Partner's double was not penalties, it just showed extra values and asked partner to do something sensible. Rightly or wrongly (the latter, I now think), I decided that if partner was inviting me to bid then an 8 card suit was worth naming, so I bid 5♠. The play was quick – the 3♦ preemptor led ♦A, then the ♥A, and then the ♠A for one off and that was that. A bizarre preempt to be sure, but a wonderful result – at every other table the auction went something like 1♦Double-Pass-4♠-AP, for a routine +620. The strong 3♦ bid had produced a vulnerable game swing out of nowhere.

My second example is from the first round of the Championship Teams, Franklin vs North-east. You are playing 4♥ on the lead of the ♣K after the following auction:

You	LHO	Partner	RHO
1♥	4♣	4♥	AP
		KJx	
		10xxx	
		Jxx	
		Axx	
		A98x	
		AQ8xx	
		Axx	
		x	

You win the ♣A, take the heart finesse and play 3 rounds of trumps, RHO having started with ♥KJ9. He exits with a low diamond which you duck to LHO's Queen, and then ruff the ♣Q continuation, RHO following (so clubs are 7-2).

Now you play Ace and another diamond, which will endplay RHO if he started with Kxx; to your surprise, LHO (Leon Northeast) wins the ♦K and gets out with another club (on which RHO pitches the thirteenth diamond). So now the hand has reduced to a simple problem, namely playing that spade combination for no loser.

In isolation, the odds are clear – the percentage play is low to the Jack, which wins against Qx or Qxx onside. The alternative play (low to the King, run the Jack) only wins against precisely 10x on your left and is therefore (very) inferior. But this problem is not 'in isolation' – you have a complete count of Leon's hand! He has precisely

?x  
x  
KQx  
KQJ10xxx

So the 'Qxx onside' possibility doesn't exist, and the choice is very simple: he either has xx (nothing works, you're one off), 10x (take the backward finesse to make), or Qx (need to play low to the Jack). But don't forget the bidding – a chunky 13-count is a very unlikely preempt, so the correct line is low to the King and run the Jack on the way back, hoping to pin the 10.

Result – you've just gone off in a contract a beginner would have made. Leon DID have the chunky 13-count for his 4♣ preempt (the more normal 2♣ was chosen in the other room), and his unorthodox choice has again manufactured a game swing-out of thin air. Maybe these heavy preempts have something going for them after all.

Richard Fedrick

Richard Fedrick pictured second from right along with New Year Swiss Team Winners Dave Franklin, Gerry Stanford and partner Mick Carrington.

