

Dates for your Diary

November 2006

- 2 Invitation Pairs round 8 Avenue 7.40
- 3 Sussex Pairs Heat Worthing 7.30
- 5 St. Leonards Open Swiss Teams 2.00
- 6 Sussex Pairs Heat Henfield 7.30
- 9 Sussex Individual Heat West Sussex 7.30
- 11 Chairman's Cup West Sussex 1.00
- 13-16 Children in Need Sim Pairs Clubs
- 19 Hill's Trophy Worthing 1.30
- 20 National Pairs Heat Avenue 7.30
- 22 Mixed Pairs Heat Bognor Club 7.30
- 23 David Pavey Heat Eastbourne 7.30
- Elisabeth North Heat West Sussex 7.30
- Mixed Pairs Heat Bexhill 7.00
- Devonshire Cup Heat Horsham 7.30
- 24 Sussex Individual Heat Horsham 7.30
- 26 Eastbourne Swiss Teams Rorer Cup 1.45
- 27 Elisabeth North Heat Crowborough 7.30
- 28 Elisabeth North Heat Keymer 7.15
- 29 National Pairs Heat Eastbourne 7.30
- 30 Devonshire Cup Heat Eastbourne 7.30

December 2006

- 3 Chichester Basic Bridge Pairs 1.00
- 3 St. Leonards Open Swiss Teams 2.00
- 4 Mixed Pairs Heat West Sussex 7.30
- 5 Sussex Individual Heat Eastbourne 7.30
- 8 National Pairs Heat Worthing 7.30
- 10 Devonshire Cup & Plate Final Eastbourne
- 11 National Pairs Heat West Sussex 7.30
- 18 Mixed Pairs Heat Avenue 7.30

January 2007

- 7 David Pavey Semi Finals 1.00
- 7 St. Leonards Open Swiss Teams 2.00
- 12 Elisabeth North Heat Eastbourne 7.30
- 14 SCCBA New Year Swiss Teams 1.00
- 17 Charity Sim Pairs Clubs
- 21 East Grinstead Basic Bridge Pairs 11.00
- 21 Lynn Armstrong Swiss Teams 1.45
- 26 Mixed Pairs Heat Horsham 7.30
- 27 Sussex Individual Semi-finals 1.00
- 28 Eastbourne Open Swiss Teams 1.45

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 1.00
- 24 Sussex Individual Final Worthing 1.00
- 25 Eastbourne Open Swiss Teams 1.45

March 2007

- 4 Sussex Pairs Semi-finals 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
- 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

County Calendar Amendments:

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Chairman's Cup Organiser now:

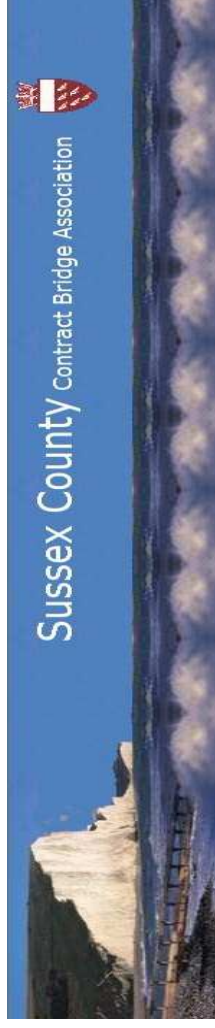
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WEALD BRIDGE CLUB

**New Address: St. John's Church Hall,
Church Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex.**



From The Chairman



Whilst playing at West Sussex a few weeks ago I twice reached for the alert card after my partner bid at the 4 level. Our opponents had a good chuckle, in fact we all did. Old habits certainly die hard. Our Director's Dungeon article highlights when a double is alertable under the new regulations.

One issue which has come to the fore with the introduction of the new regulations is how to help players with disabilities. It has always been the case that Tournament Director's can modify the regulations to accommodate those with disabilities and it is my experience that everyone tries to help. However we do need to make sure that those who are hard of hearing or with other problems are aware that we have ideas which can help. So if you are one of those players or know someone who is please get in touch. We might just be able to make playing a bit easier and a bit more fun.

Martin Pool.

May Langmaid gets Dimmie!

It is with great pride and delight that we can announce that May Langmaid has received the prestigious Dimmie Fleming Award from the English Bridge Union, given to members of the EBU who have contributed extensively to the bridge community in this country. May has been extremely active and worked hard for Sussex bridge for over 30 years at all levels shaping the well being and organisation of bridge throughout the county. At club, county and EBU level her willingness to participate, nurture and organise has been, and continues to be, legion. She has brought many newcomers to clubs in the county through her tutoring activities and is ever ready to offer a friendly and welcoming face to new members.

A founder member of West Sussex Bridge Club she has filled posts of Master Point Secretary, Chief Tournament Director and Secretary of the club, and is regular director of club sessions and competitions. For 20 years she has been and remains a most valued member of both the County Management Committee and Tournament Committee and has organised many Sussex Congresses and competitions as well as being a member of the County panel of Directors. In addition she has organised joint venture green point events in Sussex for several years, and working closely with Tom Bradley, acted as cashier for the European Bridge Championships held in Brighton in 1986.

For over 15 years May taught adult education classes in numerous venues across Sussex with excellent results bringing many new players into regular participation in the county including your current newsletter editor!



Well done May, and thank you from all of us in the SCCBA.

How Selectors Select!

A Number of members have commented in recent months about the County's selection policy and I welcome this opportunity to provide some information about this to the wider membership. As a County, we have 2 main teams to select each year, the Tollemache Cup team for the major Inter-County competition held at Kettering in November and, if successful, the following February, and the Metropolitan Cup which is held at Ardingly in May between Counties in the South east of England. We require 5 pairs for the Tollemache, which forms our principle selection of the year, and 20 for the Metropolitan.

The Selectors—Ron Buddery and myself, together with Martin Pool and Eddie Williams as ex-officio members—meet 4 times a year where, firstly, we pick more pairs than we need to enquire availability for each event and, at the following meeting, we pick the teams from available pairs. In selecting each team, we take into account each pair's form both in National events e.g. Gold Cup, NICKO, EBU Congresses, and in County events, primarily the Sussex Pairs, Championship Teams, the top Divisions of the Sussex League, and our own Congresses. We also arrange seminars for leading players and we have recently received the benefit of the experience of both Swedish international Gunnar Halberg and England lady international Sandra Landy.

This year we have delayed selection of our Tollemache team until after the EBU Summer Congress where, as reported elsewhere in this newsletter, a Sussex team came second in the B Teams Final. Because of unavailability, it was not possible to pick this team en bloc for the Tollemache but this formed a major consideration at our meeting. Another team won both the Championship Teams and Division 1 of the Sussex League in 2006 and that team of 4 has deservedly been selected in its entirety for the Tollemache.

Captain for our team for the Tollemache in November will be Andrew Southwell and the Players are:

Mick Carrington and Richard Fedrick, David Clifton and Chris Jepson, Duncan Curtis and Andy Morris, Ian Lancaster and Gerry Stanford, Martin Pool and Dave Franklin.

I am sure the best wishes of the whole SCCBA membership will be with this team as they endeavour to improve on our recent mixed record in the event



Steining Stars

Steining Village Hall was the pretty location for the SCCBA Autumn Congress—15 to 17 September. The weekend was very successful with a growth of nearly 30% on last year's attendance for the Saturday pairs competition. Jeremy Willans and Jill Skinner won the Pairs Trophy, Chris Bainham, Eddie Lucioni, Magnus Berger and John Murrell won the Swiss Teams (photo). Keith Ashcroft and Michael Pryor won the Men's Pairs and Amanda Bolton and Pam Avril took the Women's Pairs Trophy. West Sussex Bridge Club team Leon Northeast, John Jackson, Yves Lebrec and Philip Hunt won the Pivot Teams on Friday evening. Congratulations to all our winners.

Obituary

Michael Pottage (1923—2006) learnt to play bridge in the early 1950s soon after his marriage to Pam, who could already play. It was a cheap form of entertainment and something they could do together. During the 1970s he and Pam played in a social game at home before graduating to duplicate bridge towards the end of the decade. In the early 1980s he and his regular partner until his death, Mary Esson, played regularly at Petersfield and Chichester. Around the time of the latter club's move to new premises he became Treasurer of the Chichester Bridge Club. He proved a wise and faithful steward of the club's funds and his endeavours helped the club to repay its mortgage on the new building far earlier than anticipated. On top of this he undertook almost any task at the club that needed doing: he kept equipment tidy, changed cards in boards when they got dirty and did more than his share of directing.

When asked for his favourite bridge memory, he generally recalled a story from the Swiss Pairs at Brighton playing against two young Irishmen. After they had allowed him to make a rather skinny contract one of them asked: 'why did you give me a false count in the club suit?' to which the other replied 'how could I give you a false count? I had a singleton!' The bridge that ran in Michael's and Pam's blood followed through their sons. His younger son John won the 1989 Junior World Championship while his elder son Julian still plays and writes about the game. To all who knew him Michael was kind and generous to a fault, courteous to partners and opponents alike and always immaculately turned out. Before retiring Michael worked as a senior scientific officer, heading the library department at the Admiralty Surface Weapons Establishment on Postdown Hill near Portsmouth. His other interests included family history, 1940s big band music and all things French.

Au revoir, Michael.

Results Roundup:

Henfield Candles June 2006

- 1 Alistair Dunbar, Diana Stevens, Nanette & Alan Gillespie
- 2 Tilly Hennings, Anthony Whiteway, Fran Thornton & Ernie Rivett
- 3 Maureen & Keith Norman, Reg Underwood & David Cairns

SCCBA Novice Swiss Teams June 2006

- 1 David Muncicchi, Mick Pakins, Michael Pye & Franco Civello Avenue
- 2 Mark Withington, Ros Osborne, Anne Bradstock & David Collard Avenue
- 3 Nigel Roussel, Reg Gallienne, Sally Lawson & Alf Constable Worthing



SCCBA Swiss Pairs Ardingly June 2006

- 1 Mike Keeping & Janet Cattermole (photo)
- 2 David Sedlickas & David Benjamin
- 3 Dave Franklin & Gerry Stanford

Catherine Jagger member of the England Women's team and recent winner of the bronze medal in the European Championships was originally a Sussex player. Bill Sherman writes...

Catherine first came to play at Worthing Bridge Club as a fourteen year old in 1991. She played with her father, and a few of his friends, and was a very popular addition to the club. In April 1992, I was approached by Patricia Gadsby, on behalf of the SCCBA, and asked if I was prepared to form a partnership with Catherine. It was felt that she had tremendous potential, and that I might make a good mentor, to teach and guide her in her bridge. As I was between partners at the time, I agreed. It soon turned out that I would also benefit from this partnership, as one could not wish for a more pleasant, charming partner.

We played together for the next 2 1/2 years, and I fulfilled my promise to her father, to look after her, and for her to be a Regional Master before she went to university. Towards the end, I sometimes felt that I was the pupil, when she would pleasantly point out some minor error on my part, in such a way that one could not be offended.

In 1993, we played the EBU Summer Congress Swiss Teams with Tom Bradley and Harold Birch, making Catherine our captain. Having completed one match against a very good team, winning 14-6 it was with great pleasure that we sent our 16 year old captain to collect the card from four Grand Masters.

We qualified for the Sussex pairs final twice, but each time, Catherine was required to attend coaching classes for the young England squad on the day of the final. We played twice in the Gold cup, reaching round 4 both times.

Catherine went off to Cambridge University in late 1995, where she met much better players than me, and became the youngest female Grand Master ever, and the second youngest Grand Master ever.

She now plays for the England Ladies Team, and won a Bronze Medal at the European Championships in Warsaw in August, but still finds time to send a postcard to my wife Eileen and me from wherever she is.



Successful Sussex wins through at Brighton

We are very lucky to have one of the premier national competitions take place in Brighton. The annual seaside congress still attracts over 1000 bridge players, even though numbers are diminishing. Sussex proved its worth by fielding a large number of winners for the events, probably the most stunning being the double whammy scored in the seniors congress. Of the 95 pairs that took part from all over the country, we can congratulate Dave Franklin and Gerry Stanford (pictured above) for coming first in the Seniors A Final and Andrea and David Galpin for coming first in the Seniors B final. This is a fantastic coup for Sussex and demonstrates what strong players we have in this field beating such greats as Paul Hackett, Martin Hoffman and Jeremy Dhondy.

Dave Franklin and Gerry Stanford had another great win for Sussex along with team mates Ian Lancaster and John Frosztega by coming joint first in the Swiss Teams Four Stars B Final at the EBU's Brighton Congress. The total field contained 200 teams from around the country. This is filtered in to three sections for the final Sunday session, the Four Stars A Final and the Four Stars B Final - containing the top 16 teams in the competition - and the Brighton Bowl containing the rest. Our team did incredibly well beating all comers including the great Andrew Robson's team of Alexander Alffrey, Tony Forrester and Andrew McIntosh. Well done boys! And finally, congratulations go to Sussex husband and wife pair Geoffrey and Ros Wolfarth beat 44 opponents in the Mixed Pivot Teams event at Brighton. Geoffrey and Ros were joined by their regular team mates Brian and Nevena Senior to beat a strong national field in this popular event.

The Director's Dungeon

Double trouble

Announcements and changes to the alerting procedure.

The new changes to the directives have, in my opinion, made things a lot easier and levelled the playing field at the table. However, because announcements are a completely new concept most of the emphasis has been directed here and the changes in the alert procedures may have been lost.

The single most important area of change is that of the alerting or not of doubles. This has been simplified and much improved to this -

- ★ if a natural suit bid is doubled and the double is for takeout then DO NOT alert;
- ★ if a natural no-trump is bid and the double is for penalties DO NOT alert;
- ★ if any artificial bid is doubled and the double is showing the suit bid DO NOT alert;
- ★ if a bid over 3NT is made and the double is for penalties, lead directing in the suit bid or takeout DO NOT alert.

The difficulties arise when partnerships either do not know what a double is, or, call it by some complicated name. Look at this -

N	E	S	W
1♦	1♠	X	
Here a takeout double is not alertable. Normally, People play that a double here is "Sputnik" or negative and would show a four card heart suit. In this case we have a takeout double. DO NOT alert it.			
1♠	P	1NT	X
Most people play this as a takeout of spades. This is alertable because the last bid is no-trump.			
1♥	P	4♥	X
Do not alert it if it is for takeout or penalties as we are above 3NT			
1♠	P	2NT	P
3♠	P	4♣	X
If the double asks for a club lead or shows clubs, do not alert it. If, for instance it asks for a diamond lead, alert.			
1♥	X	3♥	X
If the final double is not for takeout, alert it.			

The real difficulty is that partnerships MUST know when a double is for takeout and when it is not. However, we are going to get a year's grace before directors are going to come down hard on infractions of this sort.

Finally, there is one sequence that might bite. If you play TNT raises in the sequence -
1♥ 2♣ 3♥ If not 3♥ is pre-emptive, alert it.

**More next time,
Keeper Of The Keys.**

Invitation Pairs July 2006

The fourth round of the Invitation Pairs featured a superb piece of card-reading by Norman Hardy, which deserves a wider audience. The hand, which is also interesting from a defensive point of view, was the following:

	xx		
	xxx		
	AQJxx		
	Qxx		J987x
Kx		Jx	
AQ10xx		xx	
xxx			K9xx
J9x			
	AQ10x		
	Kxx		
	Kxx		
	A10x		

Norman found himself in the normal contract of 3NT, on the lead of a low heart to the J and K, after the simple auction 1NT-2NT-3NT.

Declarer appears to have only 8 tricks, but as is often the case when there are eight on top it is impossible for the defence to prevent a ninth. On the run of the diamonds, West is caught in an unusual three-suit squeeze (*West to find two discards as declarer cashes his diamond winners in dummy*):

	xx		
	xx		
	xx		
	Qxx		Jxxx
Kx		xx	
AQ10x		-	
-			Kxx
J9x			
	AQ10x		
	xx		
	-		
	A10x		

A discard from either major is instantly fatal, and the 'natural' line of discarding two small clubs just presents declarer with a pair of elegant alternatives: he can either (a) cash the CA (removing West's last spare card) then exit in Hearts, and enjoy a lead into the AQ of spades at the end; or (b) more exotically he can play for the guard-squeeze position and lead the CQ from dummy, pinning West's bare Jack. [Note that the strip-squeeze works against any layout of the club honours, and so is comfortably the better line. 3NT was made in this fashion at at least one other table].

So is West helpless? Not at all. If his first discard is a nonchalant, in-tempo small spade, followed by a low club, he will beat the game any time declarer is not so inspired as to divine the situation and play to drop the singleton SK offside. No guard-squeeze position develops, and the strip-squeeze fails because West has a spare club to lead (to his partner's winning CK) after taking his Heart tricks.

So what happened at Norman's table? The play started with a low Heart to the K, then three rounds of diamonds, on which East pitched a spade. From West's seat, the hand was pretty clear – East was marked with a club honour (else declarer had nine tricks), and the only case that mattered was when it was the King (if declarer is missing the Ace, he's almost certainly going off anyway). So West defended as recommended, pitching a low spade in tempo followed by a low club... and Norman without apparent thought played a spade to his Ace! Bravo!

Richard Fedrick's Play of the Cards.