

TOURNAMENT NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN 2015

FOR URGENT AND IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

I'd like to start this Newsletter by reminding you all of soon to be events, so that you don't forget to enter something you had "made a mental note of" – to quote my father, nearly 99 and still fiercely independent, and yes, whose memory is of elephantine proportions.

For those of you who, like me, are mere mortals, don't forget the following:-

<u>Event</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>Date</u>
<i>Sussex Individual Heat</i>	<i>Crawley</i>	<i>9th October</i>
<i>Sussex Mixed Pairs Heat</i>	<i>Bognor</i>	<i>12th October</i>
<i>Avenue Non-Swiss Pairs</i>	<i>Avenue</i>	<i>14th October</i>
<i>Ladies Pairs</i>	<i>Patcham</i>	<i>18th October</i>
<i>Sussex Pairs Heat</i>	<i>St Leonards</i>	<i>19th October</i>
<i>SCCBA Mid-Week Swiss Pairs</i>	<i>Henfield</i>	<i>20th October</i>
<i>Sussex Pairs Heat</i>	<i>Patcham</i>	<i>22nd October</i>
<i>Sussex Pairs Heat</i>	<i>Horsham</i>	<i>23rd October</i>
<i>Sussex Pairs Heat</i>	<i>Crowborough</i>	<i>23rd October</i>
<i>Sussex Mixed Pairs Heat</i>	<i>Avenue</i>	<i>23rd October</i>
<i>Sussex Pairs Heat</i>	<i>Eastbourne</i>	<i>28th October</i>
<i>David Pavey Heat</i>	<i>Patcham</i>	<i>28th October</i>
<i>Avenue Teams League</i>	<i>Avenue</i>	<i>28th October</i>

THE EARLY BIRD AND SALUTARY LESSONS!



We collectively do not put in our tournament entries early enough. I am as guilty of this as the next person. I used to work in the Travel Industry. On the first trading day in the New Year queues used to form outside every travel agent as people had made their mind up over the Christmas holidays which holiday they wanted to book for the next year. There were (and still are) finite numbers of seats on any flight, rooms in any hotel, balcony cabins on any cruise ship, etc. etc. etc. The phenomenon of the internet and the piecemeal approach to booking, encouraged people into booking later and later. Some people thought this would force prices down to their advantage and in some cases they were right. However, they did not understand that it might be preferable for an airline or a tour operator (the 2 main groups of people who have to set the programmes up in the first place) to cut their losses and completely cancel a flight, tour or holiday thus keeping losses to a minimum. Inevitably, these cancellations were not popular, either with those who HAD pre-booked, but also with the swathes of people demanding a cheapie holiday to discover that the market had now worked against them.

Tournament entries are no different, except there was never a financial gain to be made by delaying. With us, the Organiser will have to make a decision if he or she does not receive adequate entries in time whether or not to cancel the event. There may be deposit penalties that apply for booking a hall and a lot of people who wanted to attend, including some who had entered in good time and in good faith, will be disappointed and upset.

At the end of August the County was faced with a number of difficult decisions regarding events that had not at that stage been well supported. Reluctantly, we cancelled both a Basic Pairs, due to be played at Bognor and a Golf/Bridge day over at Cooden Beach. We were in serious danger of cancelling the entire Autumn Congress, and in the end we did have to cancel the events scheduled for the Friday. I am happy to report that for the Saturday and Sunday combined, our figures were ahead of the year before, so we were glad that we were able to run at least these 2 days. But it was a close shave in which we so nearly had to cancel one of our main events.

So PLEASE, (pretty please?) can I ask you all to search your consciences and have a look through the Year Book well in advance, decide what you and partner would like to enter for, and then GET YOUR ENTRIES IN. If you can't locate the year book, there is a Calendar on the Web-Site. No excuses!!!

FORWARD THINKING 1. - HENFIELD CANDLES



This year the Candles was advertised as the "Last Ever". As they say, never say never! So many of you expressed a wish to continue, so we will! The date is June 5th 2016, so please put this date in your diary as it won't appear in your Yearbook until the next edition. The format is the same except that now it will be run by the County, and Yours Truly will be the Organiser. More details will follow.

FORWARD THINKING 2. - GOLF BRIDGE



After having to cancel the current year's offering, we wanted to get a good start to ensuring this will run for 2016. The venue will be at Worthing Golf Club on the 13th October 2016. There are strict number limits on this, so it is IMPERATIVE that you get your entry in early if you wish to play. More details will follow.

FORWARD THINKING 3. - CAFE BRIDGE



+ LUNCH + BRIDGE = A GOOD DAY OUT !

Chairman Andy & I went on a day's scouting to neighbours Surrey. We attended Café Bridge Guildford.....no, it didn't mean much to us either, BUT, it was one of the most enjoyable day's bridge we had experienced. It is run as a duplicate event, where the boards stay put and the players make their way from 1 café or restaurant to another, the N/S pairs going in 1 direction and the E/W pairs in another. We played 5 board rounds so we stayed in 1 venue for long enough to get to "know" the opposition. After round 2 we had lunch in the café where we had just played, then all got together at the end for prize giving. This is a little bit like Ladies Who Lunch but with the added advantage of some friendly bridge, and, as far as I am concerned, having some men around for me to flirt with! To give you an idea of how popular this is, the Guildford event had 160 players in 10 venues and they had to turn quite a number away. We had to commit to this back in June and it took place at the end of September! A number of keen entrants, when they knew who we were, asked us when and where they could attend the Sussex equivalent! We liked it a lot, so watch this space.

MOANS, GROANS AND POSITIVE THOUGHTS

So that you are aware, I do have a full time occupation outside Bridge, so I am wondering to myself as I write this, just why I would want to encourage you all to contact me! However, if you have thoughts and comments about our County Tournaments, negative or positive, that you want to talk to me about, then please do be in touch. I will try to deal with them in a timely fashion.

That's all for now,

Ros Wolfarth

SCCBA Tournament Manager