

TOURNAMENT NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN 2015

Email EDITION UPDATE – NOVEMBER 2015

DISAASTER, DARLING!

Some of you actually read the first Newsletter that I produced in September 2015 for publication on the Website. I really thank you if you did, one because it does take a fair amount of time to set things up and secondly because I know that your Webmaster Mervyn Wotton went out of his way to try and make it stand out on the Home Page. Asking around it became evident that a good number of people did not read the Newsletter. Therefore, at our recent Management Committee meeting we jointly agreed to send it out via email. Those of you that have already received that email will note that we had forgotten that the first section covered events which had already taken place. Ooops!! Apologies. It won't happen again, but then it is already clear that, whilst it is not a bad idea to have the Newsletter on our web-site for anyone who is not a Sussex member, it is far more widely read via email. I'll now try again, with a revised list of forthcoming events.

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, now 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>David Pavey Heat</i>	<i>Crawley</i>	<i>25th November</i>
<i>Sussex Individual Heat</i>	<i>Horsham</i>	<i>27th November</i>
<i>David Pavey Heat</i>	<i>Eastbourne</i>	<i>5th December</i>
<i>Mixed Pairs Heat</i>	<i>West Sussex</i>	<i>8th December</i>
<i>SCCBA New Year Swiss Teams</i>	<i>Henfield</i>	<i>10th January</i>
<i>SCCBA Charity Sim Pairs</i>	<i>Clubs</i>	<i>11th – 15th January</i>
<i>Avenue Non-Swiss Pairs</i>	<i>Avenue</i>	<i>13th January</i>
<i>Eastbourne Open Swiss Pairs</i>	<i>Eastbourne</i>	<i>17th January</i>
<i>Avenue Teams League</i>	<i>Avenue</i>	<i>27th January</i>
<i>David Pavey Final</i>	<i>Worthing</i>	<i>31st January</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

P.S. Since we sent out the first of the email batches, comments have been received that I had invited comments then omitted to put my contact details. Now be fair....I had also said that I wondered, with a full-time occupation, why I would want to encourage them!!!! I am genuinely interested in wanting to promote Tournaments around the County, and we can only make improvements if we know your thoughts, opinions and suggestions. My contact details are readily available on both the Website and in the Yearbook. By looking them up in either place I hope it will also encourage you to become more familiar with what we do already do and what is in store for the rest of the year.