

TOURNAMENT NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2016

Maybe it is not a bad idea to be formulaic when writing a Newsletter. That way it is easy to find your way around. Therefore, I will start off this one as in my previous Newsletter, by listing the up and coming events over the next 6 weeks or so.

<u>Event</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>Date</u>
<i>Elisabeth North Trophy</i>	<i>Horsham</i>	<i>14th February</i>
<i>Youth Bridge Festival ~</i>	<i>Avenue</i>	<i>15th – 18th February</i>
<i>Sussex Individual Final #</i>	<i>Patcham</i>	<i>21st February</i>
<i>Avenue Teams League</i>	<i>Avenue</i>	<i>24th February</i>
<i>La Locanda Open Swiss Teams</i>	<i>Eastbourne</i>	<i>28th February</i>
<i>Avenue Non-Swiss Pairs</i>	<i>Avenue</i>	<i>9th March</i>
<i>Sussex Pairs Final #</i>	<i>West Sussex</i>	<i>12th March</i>
<i>National Pairs – Regional Final*</i>	<i>Patcham</i>	<i>13th March</i>

~ Youth Bridge Festival is a Lottery Funded 4 day event run by County Chairman Andy Ryder. If you are interested for your children or grandchildren, please contact him by email to andyryder@hotmail.com or phone him at the Avenue Bridge Club on 01273 775752.

- f.i.o. finalists are already published

*Please note the change in arrangements from those published in our Year Book. If you are in doubt, the details are to be found on the EBU Website, under Competitions.

SUMMER'S ON THE WAY!!!!

It is February 2016 and it never ceases to amaze me just how quickly the months slip by. On weekdays I have to get parcels delivered to a Post Office in time for a 5.00 p.m. deadline (under threat, I might add, of having to pay again by needing to re-frank the damned things if the deadline is missed!) One thing that I really notice, is how much lighter it is at that time of day than it was a mere 4 weeks ago.

That has brought me to the realisation that Summer really is on the way, even though we haven't yet had anything that vaguely resembles a winter. Probably just tempted fate there!

So what are the juicy morsels that I am about to lay before you?

No. 1

First up is the Inter-Club Teams of Eight on 3rd April. This is a chance for your club to enter a team into a competition which will see the winners of our County event representing us at firstly Regional, then maybe National level in the Garden Cities Trophy. It's held at Eastbourne Bridge Club. Why not show all the other clubs in Sussex a clean pair of heels and wheel out your secret weapons in players that you are really proud of and who you think will enjoy a good level of competition and an enjoyable day out?

No. 2

SCCBA Spring Congress From 8th – 10th April, with a variety of events. This is our county's premier Congress (with Blue Points being awarded) and events to suit everyone. The venue is the Uckfield Civic Centre. The playing facilities are light and airy, plus there is proper catering on site, with reasonably priced meals that you can order, as well as a few handy restaurants for those who prefer to wander out between sessions. Check things out in the Yearbook or on the County website. If you know you want to play already, I am sure that Eddie Williams (our Tournament Director for the entire weekend) will be happy to receive your entries as early as possible. You can link directly onto the booking site from here http://www.bridgewebs.com/cgi-bin/bwoi/bw.cgi?club=sussex&pid=display_page8&sessid=566656672643833

No. 3

For those of a gentler persuasion is the Basic Bridge Pairs, held at Eastbourne on 8th May. As the name implies, this competition has a maximum number of Master points for qualification purposes. You must have fewer than 5,000 in the list published in the County Masterpoint List for 2015. This is now available on the EBU website. It is an excellent start for those who are enjoying their Club bridge and want to expand a little further. It's also a great way of meeting new friends. Lots of us started our competitive Bridge Life this way, and Kathy Williams is as congenial an Organiser as you will find.

No. 4

Next in May is a Green Point Swiss Pairs, held at Crowborough Community Centre on 21st May. This is a serious competition, run by the County but under Licence from the EBU. Here you will find some tough opponents from other counties, as well as the crème de la crème of Sussex. For those of you who want a challenging mental workout against good competition, this is the event for you.

No. 5

Now to one of the County's favourite competitions, The Henfield Candles on 5th June. This is the first time that this has been organised under County auspices, mainly because so many of you have enjoyed it over the years. Last year was supposed to be the last but lots of you asked for its continuation. So here we are, and Yours Truly is the Organiser this time around. Don't let me down! As in previous years, this is a chance to pig out on a John Porteous buffet meal (preceded by tea and cakes) and have a gentle but competitive Swiss Teams memorable day out. The link to the web-site is here http://www.bridgewebs.com/cgi-bin/bwoi/bw.cgi?club=sussex&pid=display_page8&sessid=566656672643833.

WHICH COMPETITIONS ARE FOR ME?

In my relatively short tenure as your Tournament Manager, I have had the pleasure in meeting some of you, and talking to lots more: I've sent and received loads of emails on a variety of topics, some of which are about Bridge Tournaments! As is the case with any new job, one has to pick up and run with what already exists and then think about the relevance of the various Competitions & Tournaments that we lay on for players of all levels of experience. This way I can try and ascertain if you, the Players, are happy with what we have or if we can improve and / or change things more to your liking. There are some things that we do well - others I am not so sure about. I love my bridge and I love meeting people. I know I am not alone in wanting to get out there and enjoy the bridge and the company of others. I do understand that you may not be sure what will suit you, so why not ring me some time to ask what I would recommend to you? Clearly bridge is not a game where One Size Fits All, but some events are more that way than others and I would be happy to hear your concerns and suggestions.

KEEP THOSE EARLY ENTRIES COMING IN

In my first Newsletter I was banging on about early entries to competitions (a kind of use it or lose it theme). I am pleased to report that by dint of some heavy canvassing by hard-working Organisers, some of our attendance numbers have actually gone up! Now some of you will be blissfully unaware just how much effort – and don't forget we are talking about people giving their time for the love of it - goes into running any sort of County Competition. It IS rewarding in itself to see that the efforts have encouraged some additional entries, and yes it IS rewarding when people come up and thank you for your efforts, so please keep up the good work and put in your entries and don't forget to thank the Organiser, Director(s) and scorers. It's a small thing but much appreciated.

AND STILL TO COME!!!!!!

Café Bridge – advised in last time's Newsletter – will take place on Tuesday 13th September in the Hove area. Keep a look out for details on the Website and on Flyers. We'll try to get these out to you at least by the Spring Congress. Incidentally, this really is an event that all of you will enjoy.

Golf Bridge will be at the Upper Course of Worthing Golf Club on 13th October. Maximum numbers are 24 (due to course restrictions) so contact Fran Thornton on 01903 266144 or email her at p_and_f_thornton@hotmail.com if you are interested. The format is a meet up for coffee and a breakfast roll, followed by tee-off starting at 10.00 a.m (Stableford scoring applies). A superb 2 course lunch is then followed by an Individual Bridge session where you play with everybody else, followed by Prize Giving. So much fun AND prizes. Sacre bleu...whatever next!

Until the next time, or until we meet again across the green baize,

Ros Wolfarth

SCCBA Tournament Manager.

Email ros.wolfarth@ntlworld.com Phone 01273 203807.