

S.C.C.B.A. October 2005 NEWSLETTER

Chairman's Column



Sadly, the main reports in this newsletter are about the loss of Tom Bradley. A man who was respected and loved by all and is greatly missed.

It has become apparent that the words 'No Fear' in 'No Fear Pairs' have had the opposite effect and so it has been decided to change the name to 'Basic Bridge Pairs'. This accurately describes the nature of the event and for those who have previously been put off, I encourage

you to come and join us. The friendly and relaxed atmosphere is ideal as an introduction to county bridge.

Our county web site has remained one of the best in the country, mainly due to the constant improvements carried out by recent webmasters. However, our drive to increase members has highlighted further possibilities for the development of the site. This has been proceeding rapidly and by the time you read

this the new site may well be in use. It will provide easier and faster access and cover more areas with greater detail. Together with our latest county computer scoring programmes it will enable detailed competition results to be on the site within minutes of them being known. *Martin*

**Don't Miss
New Year Swiss Teams 15 Jan 06**

Tom was born in Cornwall to Phyllis and Francis Bradley. Phyllis incidentally was the first lady to work for Barclays Bank, and he had twin sisters Mary and Gillian, Gillian dying at 17 years of age. As a youngster he enjoyed gardening and at 9 years of age he went to Boniface College, Plymouth. At school he was leader of the Orchestra and played violin, that violin being passed to his daughter Joan.

Following a State Scholarship Tom read Physics at Exeter University where he was Social Secretary to the Student's Union. He met his first wife Beryl at University who sadly died of cancer after two years of married life.

Tom joined GEC at Stanmore where he was involved with Nuclear Physics and then worked at Electronics Associated Corp in Burgess Hill, managed its closure and his own redundancy. Tom together with Dennis Crouch and Vera Hammond became involved in a small Newspaper shop. Tom made a successful business of this, BRADLEYS, and became the sole owner. BRADLEYS prospered and Tom acknowledged that he worked with a splendid staff headed by Linda who coped with many bridge assignments over the phone as well as keeping a well ordered business.

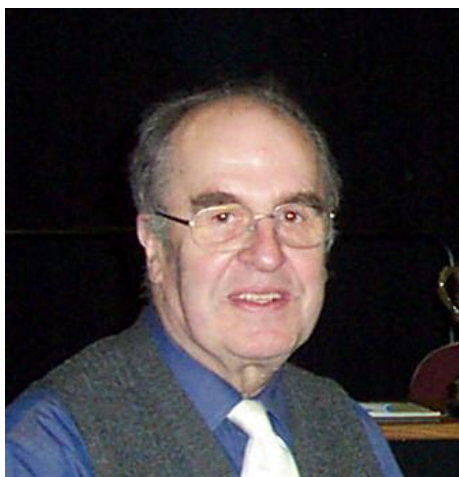
Tom met his second wife Sheila at dancing. Sheila was a trained teacher and continued her interest throughout her married life, Sheila dying in 2004. They are survived by son and daughter Julian and Joan, and grandchildren Hannah, Ben, Daniel and Rebecca.

The support of the staff at Bradley's enabled Tom, after Sheila's death to find time for some gardening again and time to be with his grandchildren which gave him great joy.

Tom was a major figure in the bridge world: President of the British Bridge League 1997-98, Treasurer of the EBU for much of the last 20 years and Member of the EBU Board of Directors. On the occasions when the Home International events were held in Sussex Tom Bradley was in the thick of the administration ensuring that all was done properly. At the 2002 Lady Milne (Ladies Home International) he was also the Match Manager.

THOMAS JOHN BRADLEY

8/4/36 - 27/5/2005



He was heavily involved with encouraging the young: Chairman of the EBU Youth Committee, Treasurer of the Educational Trust for British Bridge, Organiser of the World Junior Championships in Nottingham 1989 and the Junior World Championships in Torquay 2003.

Within Sussex he was SCCBA President for

3 years and SCCBA Chairman for 27 years. He brought together a County previously split by disagreement between East and West. Martin Pool, the present Sussex Chairman, has described Tom as well-respected, a role model and a father figure.

Tom was involved in the creation of the West Sussex Bridge Club, with Dennis Crouch (see p4). Their excellent premises were opened by Sandra Landy.

Tom also taught bridge and many of his pupils have enjoyed much success.

Despite all his administrative work Tom continued to play winning bridge. Last year he won the County Men's Pairs with Harold Birch, the Mixed pairs with May Langmaid and the Autumn Congress Pairs with Roger Poulter. He enjoyed Bridge Congresses like Henfield that provided excellent hospitality with a surfeit of good food, as he considered that bridge should be an enjoyable experience. He was impressed in Ireland where no directors, alert cards or stop cards were evident. [Directors – don't take it amiss]

Tom was a reliable team member and would not let one down even when in pain after damaging himself falling over or when tired after 5 a.m. starts at work. A super team mate. Your writer enjoyed playing with him but half a dozen times – no system, when in doubt it's forcing.

Tom was concerned about the spirit in the game. A good spirit would encourage more to become Club players and take part in an enjoyable experience. We should be positive, youthful friendly and enjoy the bridge experience.

This appreciation of Tom Bradley is based on extensive notes written by Harold Linfield

Memories of Tom Bradley

In February of this year I sent an email to Tom asking him if I could feature him in the County People series - this would have meant more work for him. His response was typical:

"I feel very honoured at your thoughts about appearing in County People, and will of course cooperate."

That article never came to fruition. Then May Langmaid sent me an email part of which is reproduced below and that gave me the notion of a simple collection of memories of Tom by his fellow bridge players. West Sussex members have particularly strong memories of Tom.

From May Langmaid

A lot has been written about Tom Bradley since 27th May but West Sussex Bridge Club members had the benefit of Tom's dry humour when he "directed" the annual Christmas party.

With a straight face he would inform members that the EBU had introduced a number of new rules, effective immediately and he would then create chaos by proceeding to implement the alleged changes. For example, Aces would have no value but 2C would be played as a "joker". At the end of a round he would send the East, South and West players to all directions (moving up 2 tables or going down tables or going East or West). Chaos!! He would deduct points from the men and give them to the ladies. At prize giving he would allot prizes in an unconventional way, perhaps with lowest given first prize. Members always came back for more of Tom's version of the rule book.

From Carol Watson

I also think of Tom at our Christmas parties and I remember him at our annual Men versus Ladies with his dry humour about the Ladies at the beginning of the evening, absolutely sure that the Ladies were going to have to take home the minute Runners-Up cup to put on the mantelpiece; the

lavish praise and amazing humour about the Men the one year the Ladies actually won the event!! He was truly a gentleman and a superb advocate for bridge, encouraging everyone to put enjoyment of the game first. The world of bridge has truly lost a great player and friend to all he met.

From Ken Latty

Some fifteen years ago I had started teaching bridge and was seeking to be assessed by the EBUTA so as to become a full member but was

season. On the only occasions we were on the same side, he was non-playing captain of the Sussex team in the Tollemache for the last 2 years when I was probably the least experienced member of the squad, I was enormously impressed by his efficiency, his support in boosting our confidence and by his tact in organising the team. I am sure he will be really sadly missed.

From Roger Poulter

Many years ago Tom and I played in a team with Eric Seldon and Ron Cowpland and after that with Harold Birch and Ron Cowpland in all sorts of events including the Spring Foursomes. Tom was always the perfect partner, never a cross word and exemplary table manners.

From Ian MacGregor

Partnering Tom was such a pleasant experience. Your wrong views were always treated with respect, as Tom would say "you have to take a view partner, sometimes it's right sometimes it's wrong."

From Margaret Birch

West Sussex Bridge Club
is holding a
Tom Bradley Memorial Swiss Teams
Sunday 20th November 2005
Clair Hall, Haywards Heath
All proceeds to
St Peter & St James Hospice
and Macmillan Nurses
Contact Doug Pennifold 01444 248747

unable to travel to a workshop to give a presentation. Tom heard about this and immediately volunteered to travel from Burgess Hill to Hastings to sit in for the duration of a lesson and at its conclusion gave a short but very encouraging talk to the students, who, I know, were much impressed by him, as was I. Such was the devotion of Tom to the cause of bridge and for which I shall always be grateful.

From Chris Bainham

I could not claim to have known him as a very close acquaintance but I have played against him in Sussex competitions for many years. Whenever you played Tom you knew the game would be very keenly contested but always with the greatest courtesy and friendliness. My team played his in a number of league matches over the last few years and we always knew that whatever the result it would be one of the most enjoyable matches of the

Harold and I spent a lot of holidays with Tom and Sheila, walking etc. One holiday in Wales with Duncan and June Quibell was most memorable. Up in the hills we heard a crack and Tom said quietly "That was my leg, I'd better go back to the Hotel" Later Duncan gave him an elasticated bandage to ease the leg so that we could play bridge, which carried on into the early hours. The next day Tom decided that he and Sheila should go home and go to hospital where they set his broken leg! He would not let people down.

From Doug Pennifold

I shall remember Tom best for the wisdom that he had on all things pertaining to bridge and for the quiet and helpful way he had in solving one's problems. Although a very busy man he always found time to help. I shall also remember him for the high regard and affection in which he was held by so many people.

Kremer-Dersch Trophy

The SCCBA Secretary will shortly after Christmas be inviting Club Secretaries to enter a team from their Committee for the Kremer-Dersch event. This competition has no entry fee and includes a buffet. A look at the SCCBA website reveals that there has been a steady decline in numbers and a significant number of affiliated clubs have never entered a team. This is one of the friendliest events in the Calendar and if you are a Club Secretary and have not entered a team can I urge you to join up and come along next year.

Club Heats of County Competitions (date change in red)

Sussex Pairs

Crowborough	21 October 2005
Horsham	28 October 2005
Worthing	4 November 2005
Henfield	7 November 2005

Mixed Pairs

Worthing	21 October 2005
Eastbourne	7 November 2005
Patcham	17 November 2005
Bexhill	24 November 2005
West Sussex	5 December 2005
Avenue	13 December 2005
Horsham	27 January 2006

David Pavey

West Sussex 1 November 2005

Devonshire Club Cup

Horsham	10 November 2005
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Elisabeth North

Avenue	11 November 2005
Crowborough	28 November 2005
West Sussex	28 November 2005
Keymer	29 November 2005
Horsham	29 November 2005

Sussex Individual

West Sussex	10 November 2005
Horsham	25 November 2005
Henfield	27 November 2005

AROUND THE CLUBS

Just before the EBU Summer Meeting in Brighton, Patcham Bridge Club extended an invitation to the EBU to send a representative of the EBU, during the Meeting, to their Wednesday evening Level 1 session to play with a local player and explain the benefits of membership of the EBU to the members of Patcham Bridge Club. We were delighted to



greet Sandra Landy, former Ladies World Champion and Sussex member who came along to the club and played with Patcham member Rose Goodman. Both are pictured on the left For the benefit of newer County members Sandra is standing.



RONALD COWPLAND

Ronald Cowpland, who died in June this year aged 89 was very well known in Sussex and particularly in Bexhill where he lived and owned the Wilton Bridge Club

Before he was known for his bridge successes he was a tennis coach at local private schools and to children of well known families in Sussex. He then took up bridge and became a Life Master.

He played regularly in a team with Tom Bradley, Harold Birch and Roger Poulter. The team did very well in the Gold Cup, National Masters and the Sussex Congresses. I think his name will feature on most of the Sussex Trophies. He presented the Ronald Cowpland Cup for the Men's Pairs event at the Autumn Congress. *Kay Batting*

AUTUMN CONGRESS (16/9/2005—18/9/2005)

Our thanks go to Neil Watts for organizing the Autumn Congress and to Susan Tall and her team for providing the excellent catering at the Steyning Centre. The new format of events is still in the testing stage but the Pivot Teams appears to have been very well received.

FRIDAY RESULTS

No-Fear Pairs

1. **Barrie Cavell & Christine Dean**
2. Roger Pyart & Fred Ghaleb
3. Rita Lyford & Roger Stevens

Ladies Pairs

1. **Fran Thornton & Tilly Hennings**
2. Valerie Benson & Muriel Bailey
3. Eve Snowdon-Trigg & Sue Eastwick

Pivot Teams

1. **Harold Linfield, Joan Kellett, Cecily Linfield & Geoff Kellett**
2. Liz Hoskins, Matthew Hoskins, Gerry Stanford & Andrew Southwell
3. Jackie Clinton, May Langmaid, Margaret Collins & Carol Watson



SATURDAY RESULTS

Congress Pairs

1. **Ian Lancaster & Gerry Stanford**
2. Nigel Urban & Dave Franklin
3. Andy Morris & Duncan Curtis

Consolation Pairs

1. **Tim Geenhill & Chris Bainham**
2. Paul Smith & Dilys Jones
3. Valerie Frearson & George Phillips

Open Pairs

1. **Brian Loasby & Ron Buddery**
2. Keith & Maureen Norman
3. Patsy Coulter & Geraldine Springer



SUNDAY RESULT

Congress Swiss Teams

1. Ian & Liz Lancaster, Dave Clifton & Chris Jepson
2. Malcolm Wright, Andrea Galpin, Jeff & Lydia Stanford
3. Barrie Cavell, Christine Dean, Dennis Witcomb & John Austin



DIRECTOR'S DUNGEON

The Laws for practical players

The Director does not yet have the power to throw you into the dungeon but if this power is ever granted then reading and digesting the articles in this new series by *The Keeper of the Keys* may keep you safe from harm.

Use of the bidding box

A bidding box is a simple device that has been taken up with enthusiasm by players at all levels. That being so, one would think that we would know how to use it. That is not true. Today we are going to discuss two situations that happen a lot.

The first, I suppose, happens a little bit because of a change of regulation some years ago that many players, especially the older ones have not taken on board. Imagine the situation, your partner has made a funny bid again. You know, a bid that actually makes no sense. You are trying to decide what to bid. You take out the pass card but before it is anywhere near the table you think, "Oh hang

on, that bid is forcing!". you put back the pass card and rebid your suit. *Is all okay?*

No, it is not!

The directives state that when bidding boxes are in use you make a bid "by taking it out of the box." Now, you are allowed to change a mechanical error but this is not, it is a change of mind. The pass is made and you might need to buy your partner an extra drink later.



Think with your head before acting with your hands

Another problem occurs often in many scenarios but take this one, for example. Your partner opens 1♠ and you bid 2♣ now your

opponent bids 3♥ which is passed around to you. You hold -

♠ Q75 ♥ K4 ♦ 875 ♣ AJ1042

Do you pass, double or bid 3♠? It is a difficult problem, but what has it to do with the laws? Nothing, but inexperienced players in this situation often think with their hands. They go to the front of the box, finger the pass, then they finger the

Dates for your Diary

NOVEMBER

- 6 Mini Swiss Teams *St Leonards*
- 13 Hill's Trophy *Worthing*
- 26-27 Tollemache Cup Qualifier *Coventry*
- 27 Open Swiss Teams (for the Rorer Cup) *Eastbourne*

DECEMBER

- 4 SCCBA No Fear Pairs *Chichester* (SCCBA Basic Bridge Pairs)
- 4 Mini Swiss Teams *St Leonards*
- 11 SCCBA Devonshire Cup & Plate *Eastbourne*

JANUARY

- 8 SCCBA Individual Semi-Finals *Eastbourne & Horsham*
- 8 Mini Swiss Teams *St Leonards*
- 15 SCCBA New Years Swiss Teams *Henfield*
- 18 SCCBA Charity Simultaneous Pairs *Clubs*
- 22 SCCBA Basic Bridge Pairs *East Grinstead*
- 29 SCCBA David Pavey Semi-Finals *Worthing & West Sussex*

FEBRUARY

- 11-12 Tollemache Final
- 12 SCCBA Pairs Semi-Finals *Avenue, Eastbourne & Worthing*
- 12 Mini Swiss Teams *St Leonards*
- 15 SCCBA Senior Simultaneous Pairs *Clubs*
- 19 SCCBA Individual Final *Avenue*
- 25 SCCBA David Pavey Final *Worthing*
- 25 Golfprint Regional Final
- 26 SCCBA Chairman's Cup *Avenue*
- 26 Mini Swiss Teams *Eastbourne*

CALENDAR CORRECTIONS

- p16 David Pavey Heat - West Sussex BC: date **1st November** not **2nd November**.
- p17 SCCBA Mixed Pairs Semi-Final - Eastbourne & Worthing Bridge Clubs: date **5th March 2006** not **6th March 2006**.
- p18 Henfield Candles - This was omitted from the calendar and will take place in Henfield Hall **on Sunday 4th June 2006**.
- p24 Bexhill BC - New Secretary: Mrs A Cullen, 12 Pages Avenue, Bexhill-on-Sea, TN39 3AP. Tel. 01424 731856. e-mail: cullena@gmail.com.
- p25 Chichester BC: - New Secretary: Ms A Irwin-Brown, Locks End House, Lock Lane, Birdham, Chichester, West Sussex, PO20 7BB.
- p31 Storrington DBG - Address: Football Pavilion, The Leisue Centre, Pulborough Road, Storrington, West Sussex.
- p31 Storrington DBG - The evening for duplicate bridge is **Wednesday** not Friday at 7-15 pm.

double then they reach for the 3♠, take it out and place it on the table. No problem you might say, they have only made one bid and they have a right to think. This is true. If they had sat, thought, and once they had decided what to bid, gone to the box and taken out the bid of 3♠ there would be no problem. However, in our scenario there is. By the way you have bid 3♠ you have shown partner that your bid is close to a pass and this is the infraction. The laws state that you can pass information by a bid but not the way you make it. They also say that if you pass information this way that your partner may not select from logical alternatives one that MAY have been suggested by these shenanigans.

So, my tip this time is - Think with your head before acting with your hands.

The Keeper of the Keys

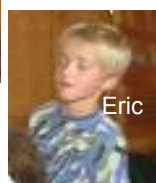
Over 100 youngsters and 45 young-at-heart descended on Loughborough University over the weekend of September 2nd to 4th for the annual Junior Teach In. The youngest was just five.

The young people are divided into six groups depending on their bridge playing abilities, so we start with the Raw Rookies – those who have never played any sort of bridge before. There were between 12 and 16 who learned MiniBridge over the weekend and were able to play in their own tournament on Saturday evening. The Fearless Fledglings come next – those who have played MiniBridge and are ready for the real thing; the Eager Beavers with some bridge experience, the Flying Foxes who know quite a bit; the Ace Experts who think they know a lot and the Top Guns who.... Well I'll leave it to you to complete

The article that follows came via Jill Armstrong from a group of children from Sussex who attended the Loughborough Teach In.

Our First Bridge Event

Let us introduce ourselves, we are Felix (10), Lily (7) & Eric (7) Dibb-Fuller the great-grand-children of Rosemary & the late Eric Seldon & grand-children of the late Lynn



Armstrong who we were told were very well known to many of you. We together with our friends Nat Lawton (10) and Alex Carr (6) went off to Loughborough with our granddad Dave to the EBU Junior Bridge Weekend. None of us had played bridge before so it was all a very new experience and to be honest one that we were not sure that we would like. Granddad and Jill turned up at 10 o'clock to whisk us away and eventually we arrived at 3.30 p.m.

5.30 p.m. was the welcome address. Christine Duckworth, Gilly Clench and John Pain were there to make sure our weekend went well and both Christine and Gilly are international players. That made us think; there can't be many sports where international players would be bothered to be with kids like us who had never played the game before. What was also good was that there were youngsters there who we were told might perhaps play for their country - wow. Off to dinner.

Then back for our first lesson. We were the Raw Rookies and here we met another lad from Sussex, Stephen Kennedy who was there with his mum, Katie. The partnerships were, Eric & Lily; Felix & Nat; Stephen & Alex.

We started by playing Beggar my Neighbour, some played Whist and then on

School Teachers We Need You

The SCCBA has invited Alison Nicholson from the EBU Education Department, to talk to us about teaching bridge to school pupils at both primary and secondary level. Alison will be attending a meeting at the Avenue Bridge Club on Tuesday 15th November at 7.30pm to give us advice and highlight the tools available to help us to move forward on Junior Bridge. If you would like to attend (**no commitment**) please contact Pat Kent on 01273 565822.

to Mini-Bridge. Our teachers were very kind and we seemed to get our hands on the cards really quickly. Then all too soon we were off to bed. We don't know if you have played mini-bridge but what you have to do is count the points in your hand and announce them, then after the third person has called out how many they have you can work out how many points the fourth person has - magic. The pair with the higher number of points has the contract and the person with the higher number of points in the partnership becomes declarer, then you are off or hopefully not!!! We were told that you do something called bidding, which would be all too much for us at the moment.

The next day we played from 9 a.m. 'til 12.30. we were told something about defence but then went back to play. After lunch we had some free time then we all met up again for a practice session before the competition in the evening when we were to play 6 boards. All players were playing a competition that evening and we were there with them, scary or what?

Next morning Granddad woke us up at 8.00 a.m. and off we went to breakfast and then back to class. This time we had to work out how to make the best of a 5-card suit and see how many tricks we could make with varied distribution. We enjoyed this lesson but we were drawing to the end of our weekend. We had a quiz before lunch and then back with all the groups to say goodbye.

There was a prize giving and **Felix & Nat** were the best Raw Rookies in the mini-bridge, **Eric & Lily** were the best improvers and **Stephen & Alex** the most entertaining.

Then back home. On the way we went through what we had learnt with Granddad and Jill. We learnt lots of tables to do with 13; 10; and 4. We learnt about sets of cards and a lot of new words. It was all much more fun than Maths and English.

What will we do for the next year? We are told there is no junior bridge in Sussex. Well I suppose with granddad's help we can keep playing, we just hope we can go again next year. Oh by the way, will we see you across the bridge table? We do hope so.



I first met Tom at the Weald Bridge Club in 1965, shortly after he had moved from the West Country. A friendship developed and we played bridge together for a number of years.

My first impression of Tom was that he was nervous and a worrier. Little did I guess how these inherent weaknesses would be overwhelmed by a strength of character, his integrity and his determination and ability to succeed. Tom's subsequent achievements are well known and I hope to describe to you the relevant part of his early life in Sussex.

My first exploit with Tom was teaching the game. I was ready to go, but "No," said Tom, "we must satisfy ourselves that we have the ability". So first, we obtained teaching diplomas from the E.B.U. Within a few months we encountered the problem faced by so many bridge teachers when their students wanted somewhere to practise their new found hobby among those at the same level as themselves. We created the West Sussex Club, with Tom as its Chairman; but since we were both in work, we relied upon two lovely and experienced ladies to direct the meetings at the United Reform Church Hall in Haywards Heath.

During this time, Tom was learning fast under the tutelage of the late Ron Rowlands who was then County Chairman and subsequently Vice President. Tom, after service on the County Committee, took over as Chairman, and the rest you will know. How, then, could I describe the overall merits of a close and trustworthy friend and his subsequent outstanding contribution to the administration and organisation of our game. Of all the superlatives, I would choose 'indomitable'.

Dennis Crouch

Grand Master Promotions

Congratulations to **Marie Gritt, Vida Bingham** and **Geoffrey Wolfarth** for their recent promotions to Grand Master

EBU Seniors - Eastbourne

Many congratulations to **Peter Collins and Ian Watt** for their victory in the Veterans Pairs event at the Seniors Congress.

Novice Swiss Teams (12/6/05)

1. **Mark Withington, Ros Osborne, Annn Bradstock & David Collard.**
2. Mike Greenfield, Rosemary Martin, Janet Millman & Roger Millman.
3. Christina Harvey, Chris Harvey, Adam Harvey & Martin Harvey.

One Day Green Point Swiss Teams

The Sussex team of Andy Willard, Joy Mayall, Peter Brown & David Spencer took third place.

Ardingly Swiss Pairs (3/7/05)

1. **Keith Ashcroft & Michael Prior**
2. Richard Fedrick & Rob Zijlstra
3. Dave Armstrong & Jill Armstrong

An Apology

Our sincere apologies to those of you playing in the Ardingly event who had lots of waiting to do when the 'same round' scoring program decided to "take a break".

Thank you for your patience.

What will we do for the next year? We are told there is no junior bridge in Sussex.