

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2012

WWW.SCCBA.CO.UK

A NOTE FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN - Jackie Clinton

Hello Everyone,

I should like to wish you all a happy and healthy 2012. So sorry I have been missing from the bridge tables in 2011 but all that will change this year.

I can hardly believe I have had the honour of being your Chairman for 5 years. I have had a rewarding time giving something back to the world of Bridge which has given me hours of enjoyment. I have made some really good friends and maybe the odd enemy!



Whoever takes my place I know will look after you well as any member of the management committee is there to help - just ask. We are all working to strengthen the future of Bridge and encourage new members of any age to join our clubs.

Well enough from me. Please get in touch if you need any help. Enjoy your Bridge and please try to enter one if not more of our county competitions

CLUB NEWS

National Success for Patcham pair - Peter Langston

Hedy Friend and Pam Newman of Patcham Bridge Club were the national winners of the Wednesday Children in Need Simultaneous Pairs on Wednesday 16 November 2011. Over 2000 pairs took part.

Well done Hedy and Pam !

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1st Anniversary for Old Barn Way Bridge Club - Jill & Dave Armstrong

Our bridge club runs at Adur Indoor Bowling Club, Old Barn Way, Southwick BN42 4NT on Wednesday afternoons from 1.30 pm - 4.45 pm. We are very lucky to have very good facilities. There is a self contained playing area, en suite, for up to 15 tables. There is an excellent restaurant serving home cooked lunches. There are a number of our members who come along from 12 noon for lunch and a chat before the bridge session starts.

Bridge lessons are also available and our students, on completion of there first 10 weeks, are then welcome to attend our bridge club to play alongside (but not against) the more experienced players.

On the 7th December 2011 we held a Drawn Pairs event the players names went into a hat according to their experience and partners drawn.

On the 13th May 2012 1 pm there will be an Improvers' Congress. This will be open to all players under 25,000 master points. Subject to entrants there will be three pairs prizes awarded on a stratified basis. This event will be suitable for students in their first year of bridge and those more experienced. There will be a discussion of the hands at the conclusion of play. Tea & refreshments will be served halfway through the event.

We also hope that during 2012 we will run a bridge/bowls teams event but more of that at a later time.

If you would be interested in coming along to our Club please pop along on any Wednesday afternoon. For more information please go to www.ldbarnwaybc.co.uk or contact Jill Armstrong on 01273566101 or 07724724491.



Last but not least we would invite you to go to our results page follow the link on our web site and see what Pianola (www.pianola.net) has to offer. It is great for club administrators and has a lot for players as well.

Enjoy your bridge.

RESULTS

Here's the list of who's won what since the last newsletter.

24th July 2011 - **SCCBA Venture Pairs** - Jane Ross & Valerie Atkins came top out of 24 pairs, with a score of 62.59%.

31st July 2011 - **Sussex Green Point Swiss Teams** - Another great win for Malcolm & Karen Pryor, Duncan Curtis & Andrew Morris, with 109 VPs, who pipped Jeremy Willans & Ian Draper, Michael Hampton & Peter Taylor on 108.

25th August 2011 - **1066 Sim Pairs** - Molly Freeman & Peter Carbutt came top with a score of 63.82%. Excellent result. 71 pairs participated, not 1066.

10th September 2011 - **Metropolitan Cup** - Kent won the A flight, Essex won the B flight, but Sussex won the C Flight for the second year running, and will represent the county in the nationals in Solihull in July 2012.

16th-18th September 2011 - **Autumn Congress - Mixed-Open Pairs**: Liz Hoskins & Nigel Urban; **Venture Pairs**: Richard Lowe & Sheridan Stevens; **Swiss Pairs Final**: Brian Campbell-Kearsey & Richard Cleminson; **Swiss Teams**: Amanda Bolton & Jeanne Boydell, David Howard-Houston & Pyers Pennant

9th October 2011 - **Kremer Dersch Trophy** - The Avenue team of Andy Ryder & Per Lindsten, Richard Newton & Amanda Bolton won convincingly with 123 imps, with the nearest team on 71 imps.

23rd October 2011 - **SCCBA Ladies Pairs** - Less than 1% separated the top six ladies of Ann Goss & Amanda Bolton, Liz Hoskins & Chris Jepson, Chris Rebbitt & Jean Smallwood, but Liz & Chris just edged it. Well done !

5th November 2011 - **SCCBA East Grinstead Basic Bridge Pairs** - Kenneth Oliver & David Burman won with 64.25%.

12th November 2011 - **SCCBA Chairmans Cup** - Andy Morris & Duncan Curtis won this prestigious event with almost 5% to spare.

4th December 2011 - **SCCBA Basic Bridge Pairs at Bognor** - Paul Londesborough & Brian Tempest were this year's winners with 63.07%.



Kremer Dersch winners (from left, standing) Andy Ryder & Per Lindsten, Richard Newton & Amanda Bolton, with Jackie Clinton.

And finally, this year's **Invitation Pairs** was won by Liz Hoskins & Peter Clinch, with 103 VPs, who pipped Andrew Southwell & John Frosztega with 102. Well done to all.

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Sussex Player Successes Outside the County - *Mervyn Wotton*

If you get to hear of a success by a Sussex player (even yourself!) outside the county, especially in a national competition, and think that more members would like to hear about it, please pass details to the Sussex webmaster via mervynwotton@tiscali.co.uk.

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UPCOMING BRIDGE EVENTS IN SUSSEX

SCCBA events

Here are the main County Events for your 2012 Diary

SCCBA Spring Congress	Uckfield, April 13th – 15th
SCCBA Green Point Swiss Pairs	Ardingly, June 24th
SCCBA Green Point Teams	East Grinstead Sports Club, July 22nd Note the new venue
SCCBA Autumn Congress	Patcham, September 14th – 16th

Full details for the April, June & July events are enclosed with this news letter or on the SCCBA web site. Details for September will be come with the Summer news letter.

Here is a reminder of the others shown in the County Calendar.

February 2012

5 Sun	1:00 pm	David Pavey Final	Worthing
	2:00 pm	St. Leonards Open Swiss Teams	St. Leonards
8 Wed		SCCBA Senior Simultaneous Pairs	Clubs
11 Sat	11-12th	Tollemache Final	
19 Sun	1:00 pm	Sussex Pairs Semi-final	Eastbourne
	1:00 pm	Sussex Pairs Semi-final	Worthing
26 Sun	1:00 pm	SCCBA Individual Final	Worthing

March 2012

4 Sun	1:00 pm	SCCBA Mixed Pairs Final	West Sussex
	2:00 pm	St. Leonards Open Swiss Teams	St. Leonards
10 Sat	10-11th	One Day Green Pointed Events	Various
18 Sun		National Pairs Regional Final	Leatherhead
25 Sun	1:00 pm	Eastbourne Open Swiss Teams	Eastbourne
		Portland Pairs	Various

April 2012

1 Sun	1:00 pm	Sussex Pairs Final	West Sussex
	2:00 pm	St. Leonards Open Swiss Teams	St. Leonards
13 Fri	13-15th	SCCBA Spring Congress	Uckfield
14 Sat	1:45 pm	SCCBA Welcome Pairs	Uckfield
		National Pairs Final	Hinckley
15 Sun	12:00	SCCBA AGM	Uckfield
22 Sun	1:00 pm	SCCBA Teams of Eight	Eastbourne

May 2012

6 Sun	2:00 pm	St. Leonards Open Swiss Teams	St. Leonards
12 Sat	11:30 am	SCCBA Basic Bridge Pairs	St. Leonards
19 Sat		Garden Cities Regional Final	Richmond
20 Sun		One Day Green Pointed Events	Various
26 Sat	26-27th	Corwen Trophy	Hinckley

June 2012

3 Sun	2:00 pm	St. Leonards Open Swiss Teams	St. Leonards
10 Sun	1:00 pm	SCCBA Novice Swiss Teams - provisional date, to be confirmed	West Sussex
	1:00 pm	Henfield Candles Congress Swiss Teams	Henfield
16 Sat	16-17th	Pachabo Cup	Hinckley
24 Sun	1:00 pm	EBU/SCCBA Green Pointed Swiss Pairs	Ardingly
	1:00 pm	Eastbourne Open Swiss Pairs	Eastbourne

July 2012

1 Sun	2:00 pm	St. Leonards Open Swiss Teams	St. Leonards
6 Fri	6-8th	EBU Summer Seniors Congress	Eastbourne
15 Sun	1:00 pm	SCCBA Venture Pairs	Henfield
22 Sun	1:00 pm	SCCBA/EBU Green Pointed Swiss Teams	East Grinstead Sports Club

A new survey with a free entry prize ! - Joy Mayall

How can we encourage more players to enter county competitions? How can we encourage young players to take up bridge? Do Sussex players like the timing of our events? Would you like information on becoming a director? Would you like to become more actively involved in running bridge in Sussex? What don't you like about Sussex bridge? What can we do to improve it?....

The Management Committee thought it was time to find out the answers to these and many other questions relating to bridge in Sussex and to this end have constructed a survey which is available for you to complete online at www.sccba.co.uk - follow the link on the home page - or by completing the copy inside this newsletter and posting to me at the address at the end of the survey.

To encourage you to do this, we are offering 'free entry' to a pairs or teams county event of your choice in 2012 to one lucky survey completer and bridge partner. (Names will be drawn randomly from all entries where names have been supplied).

Please submit your completed survey by the closing date of March 31st.

This really is a great opportunity for you to tell us what you think – it won't take long to complete, please take a look at it.

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SCCBA Annual General Meeting 2012 - Dick Wheeler

The next Association AGM will be held at Uckfield on 15 April 2012 at 12 noon. As well as the usual business of receiving reports from the Officers and electing members of the Management Committee, one or more resolutions will be presented to seek approval of changes to the Constitution to bring it into line with current EBU guidance. Full details of the agenda and the resolution(s) will be sent to Club Contacts well in advance of the meeting with a request that they be publicised on notice boards and in club newsletters. In addition, those details will be published on the County web site. If any member wishes to receive a personal copy of the agenda/resolutions, this can be obtained either by e-mailing the Hon. Secretary (for an electronic copy) or by sending him an addressed A4 size envelope stamped with the large letter rate (for a paper copy).

Dick Wheeler - SCCBA Hon. Sec. - e-mail - dick.wheeler@btinternet.com
27 Bodmin Road, Worthing. BN133HE

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EBU shareholders' report - *Dick Wheeler & Peter Bates*

Matters of report from the EBU AGM held in October 2011, and attended by Sussex shareholders Peter Bates and Dick Wheeler.

SCCBA President, Martin Pool, was re-elected to the Laws & Ethics Committee.

A free Sim Pairs event was planned for 6 December to test the new scoring arrangements developed to allow the EBU to take in-house from April the running of most of the events previously run by BGB/Ecats (see p25 of October 2011 English Bridge for more details). This is expected to result in added annual income of between £10,000 and £20,000 - a welcome boost for EBU finances.

In her chairman's report, Sally Bugden emphasised the importance of Bridge in its potential benefit to GDP in the improvement of mathematics and numeracy amongst young persons and dementia amongst older people.

The enabling resolution to proceed in principle with an application for charitable status was approved unanimously. This is hoped to raise the status of Bridge and bring significant financial benefits. The Chess Federation is also applying. Details will be explored with a definitive resolution expected at the 2012 AGM.

The proposal to raise the P2P charge by 2p to 33p from April was approved with only one dissenter. This is the rise deferred from April 2011 following the debate at the 2010 AGM which limited the April 2011 rise to 2p on the understanding that a similar rise would be implemented in 2012.

County responses to the consultation on the role of shareholders were inconclusive and the Board decided not to attempt to prescribe their non-statutory role at national level. Counties are free to define the role locally as they see fit. It is important that shareholders communicate effectively with their county committees.

Questions were asked on the costs of English Bridge in hard copy, but research had showed that on-line publication would not be popular - about 20% of the membership either do not qualify for or have opted out of receiving the magazine.

In October the EBU had 605 clubs, 49000 members and there were around 1.9m player sessions per year, slightly up on the previous year's figures.

The Tournament Committee reported that the newly proposed Blue Points are intended to meet the needs of those who cannot (for either financial or physical reasons) afford to travel to play in Green Point events.

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SCCBA charity donations - *Julia Simpson*

Some years ago, in the last century, the county members decided to hold a competition to raise money for charity. This has now become an annual competition as a simultaneous bridge event for county clubs.

This event is held during one week in January and is organised by county committee members. These members set up the boards, do the scoring and provide the printouts of hands. To maintain a fair and equitable competition members are asked to play in only one event as there is only one set of hands which can be played at any club during the selected week.

The nomination of charities to be supported is made by the Charity Officer on the SCCBA Management Committee who until she left the county last year was Val Chandler. Val was tireless in seeking ideas for charities which could be helped and wherever possible would try to ensure that the money raised would go directly to benefit charitable work in the county.

Nominations for next year's charities will be considered in July this year- if you have a favourite local charity which you would like the county to support at the next charity simultaneous pairs event please do let the SCCBA Management committee know. Please send an email to the secretary: Dick Wheeler [dick.wheeler@btinternet.com] or to the Charity Coordinator: Julia Simpson [jbs@backsettown.demon.co.uk]

Over the past 10 years money has been given to:

- 2002 Saplings and Chestnut Tree Appeal
- 2003 Ashwood House (Cheshire Home) and Princess Royal Trust
- 2004 Riding for the Disabled and Emmaus
- 2005 Brighton Heart Support Trust and 4Sight
- 2006 NCH Elphinstone House and Leyden House Trust
- 2007 St Wilfred's Hospice and Motor Neurone Disease
- 2008 Sussex Air Ambulance and Knowles Tooth
- 2009 ASSERT (Asperger's Syndrome and Ferring Country Centre)
- 2010 Worthing Churches Project for the Homeless and Sussex Wildlife Trust
- 2011 Crossroads Caring for Carers and Children's Liver Disease Foundation.

This year, the following were agreed by the committee to nominations received from county members.

2012 Age Concern Brighton and IMPACT

The donations raised each year from these events are about £800-£1000 and are shared equally between the two charities.

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BRIDGE TECHNIQUE

Enough faffing around with committee stuff. Here is a very advanced, yet interesting, article from Richard Fedrick that should get your neurones running for the hills. And possibly bumping into each other:

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Defensive Squeezes - *Richard Fedrick*

Positions in which declarer makes extra tricks by squeezing defenders are ten-a-penny. The converse, where the defenders are in a position to execute a squeeze, are rather rarer (or possibly just not noticed so often); however two came up recently in quick succession, and both were very interesting deals.

Here's the first. Declarer (East) is in 3NT, and has won the first eight tricks with the lead in dummy:

	♠ - ♥ x ♦ Kxxx ♣ -	
♠ Jxx ♥ - ♦ xx ♣ -	N W E S	♠ - ♥ KQ ♦ Q9x ♣ -
	♠ A ♥ AT ♦ AT ♣ -	

Declarer led a low diamond to his nine and South's... Ace! Now South cashed his two major suit Aces to squeeze East in the red suits, and the defence took the last five tricks. Note that it was crucial in the end position to avoid winning the first diamond cheaply, as that destroys the communication for the squeeze and declarer cannot be prevented from making a ninth trick.

Pretty, yes? But sadly that is not quite what happened. In a teams match it would have been routine, but this was match-pointed pairs, and South had a problem. If the hand was as shown in the diagram, South must defend as described; but if the King and Queen of diamonds are reversed, winning the diamond nine with the Ace just hands declarer a stupid overtrick. What to do?

It seems to be complete guess, but eventually South went for the pedestrian defence of winning the diamond with the 10, on the grounds that even if declarer did have the diamond King (and therefore nine tricks by right), he would have a nasty guess at trick 12 about which singleton K to keep (he should be able to count the hand and work out that my thirteenth card was a heart rather than a diamond, but people sometimes get these guesses wrong). This of course was wrong, the cards were as per the diagram, and I had not only let the contract through but missed the chance for a very pretty play.

It was on the drive home half an hour later that I realised how stupid I had been. I had failed to ask myself the key question – where was the diamond JACK? Declarer surely can't have it, or he would have played it rather than the diamond nine in the diagrammed position, so North must have it. If North has it, he can't also have the Queen, since it is clear to split. So North must have the diamond K and declarer the Queen, and playing for the squeeze is clearly correct. Ho hum.

My second deal comes from a league match. North is declarer in 3NT again, and East is on lead with the defence needing two more tricks to defeat the game:

	♠ Qx ♥ Ax ♦ - ♣ -	
♠ Kx ♥ KJ ♦ - ♣ -	N W E S	♠ JTx ♥ - ♦ 9 ♣ -
	♠ Axx ♥ x ♦ - ♣ -	

East cashed the thirteenth diamond, and West was crushed. North just kept two cards in whichever major West pitched from, and made the last three tricks and his game. This was completely avoidable of course – if East plays a spade in the diagrammed position, there is no squeeze, and with the spades blocked declarer can make only his two Aces. East (a very good player) knew the layout precisely and was guilty of a rare lapse.

However, once again the play didn't quite go as described. East played the thirteenth diamond, West pitched a spade and North started thinking. Were the cards as shown in the diagram above, in which case he has to pitch a heart; or was the end position like this:

	<p>♠ Qx</p> <p>♥ Ax</p> <p>♦ -</p> <p>♣ -</p>	
<p>♠ Hxx</p> <p>♥ K</p> <p>♦ -</p> <p>♣ -</p>	<p>N</p> <p>W E</p> <p>S</p>	<p>♠ Hx</p> <p>♥ J</p> <p>♦ 9</p> <p>♣ -</p>
	<p>♠ Axx</p> <p>♥ x</p> <p>♦ -</p> <p>♣ -</p>	

In this case there is no squeeze, but with hearts splitting evenly the game comes home provided North also discards a spade and keeps two hearts. The second variation is rather more probable (for several reasons – the squeeze position requires a very precise spade layout; and also the opening lead from xxxx in diamonds provided a slight inference that East was 3343), and so North went with the odds, played for variation 2, and went down. Ho hum again.

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A small tip for beginners - *Editor*

Well, for those who still aren't totally familiar with the intricacies of squeezes and end plays, here's a short piece of information you might find useful.

Basically, *it is usually easier to gain a trick if you let the opposition shoot first*. If you look at most positions, the side who has to lead the first card is often at a considerable disadvantage. The problem of course is that giving the lead to the opposition costs a trick (except the opening lead, which is a declarer privilege).

But that does mean that if you can afford to, losing tricks at the beginning of the hand, rather than at the end, often pays, as it means that the opposition (declarer or defence - it works both ways) might have to open suits for you.

There are of course plenty of exceptions, in particular those where they can run a suit that you can't stop, or force you to ruff when you are short of trumps, to name a few. But in general, losing tricks early rather than later is a good idea.