

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2013

WWW.SCCBA.CO.UK

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A NOTE FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN - Joy Mayall (mayall@btinternet.com)

Dear Sussex bridge player,

We have had a most productive period since our last newsletter – we have started quite a few new initiatives, mostly concerning bridge education and encouraging people to take up or return to the game. More of that further on...



Firstly though, I am sure you will have heard that dear Jackie Clinton, our recent Chairman, passed away peacefully in December, following what can only be described as a courageous battle – she displayed much fortitude and even humour throughout her illness and has left a memorial that her family and friends can be proud of. The most moving moment in my term of office so far was to present Jackie with the Dimmie Fleming Award, on behalf of the EBU (as she was not well enough to travel to London) – she was just so happy to receive it and I know she cherished it. (See the picture further on in this newsletter). The high esteem in which she was held was evident by a church filled to capacity at her Service of Thanksgiving many of whom were bridge players from across the whole of the County.

We have been on the road! Display boards have been purchased and posters produced by the County for local clubs and we have erected these displays in various public libraries. So far the display has spent a week each at Crawley, East Grinstead and Haywards Heath libraries and this has resulted in 20 potential club members being recruited/showing an interest. Plans are being made to visit Horsham and Henfield. If you would like the display to come to your town's library, please get in touch with me and this will be arranged and posters produced advertising the clubs in your area.

Of course, when new members arrive they may need to learn bridge. So we arranged a course for aspiring teachers - 12 of whom attended a course at the Old Barn Bridge Club in December and gained their EBUTA accreditation. We now have a waiting list of potential teachers for our next course – if you would like to gain this Teachers' EBU accreditation please get in touch with Linda Souter lindainshanghai@hotmail.com who is kindly taking care of the administration for us.

We have plans for 'refresher courses' for existing teachers. Again please let me know if you have an interest.

Schools' Bridge! We are most fortunate to have amongst our Bridge players a county councillor (Bill Acraman) who has created a link for us with the County Schools' Advisor. The Advisor has agreed to endorse a letter from SCCBA to all teachers in West Sussex offering minibridge in schools. This is the first time the County Council has endorsed bridge teaching in schools and we are determined to make it a success. If you would like to teach minibridge in a school (a short course will be run for minibridge teachers) please get in touch. The Schools group is hopeful that a contact can be made with an East Sussex Councillor who will do the same as Bill.

Writing of young people, well done to Chris Derrick! Chris was selected to play for England in the Channel Islands Trophy a month ago. His team won their division. Chris is a member of the Old Barn Bridge Club when he is not studying at Cambridge University and had lessons from Dave and Jill Armstrong who run that club.

As I said at the beginning there has been a lot of activity. The above is just a taste of what has been happening. Read on to discover more...

Happy bridge playing!

You will see the strap line www.sccba.co.uk at the bottom of each page of this newsletter. We have an excellent website thanks to our very efficient Webmaster Mervyn Wotton. It contains up to the minute information about, and links to, everything concerning Sussex bridge including results and competition info.

The Bridge world has paid tribute to a ‘great ambassador’.

Former Sussex chairman Jackie Clinton, from Cuckfield, passed away peacefully on Thursday, November 22, with her family by her side.

Born in 1946 Jackie learned to play bridge in 1985 and by 1993 was serving on the West Sussex Bridge Club Committee. Jackie became the first female club chairman in 1995 until 1998 and held the role again from 2004 to 2007.



Jackie Clinton receiving the Dimmie Flemming Award.

David Williams, chairman of West Sussex Bridge Club, said: “Members of West Sussex Bridge Club are extremely saddened by Jackie Clinton’s death.

“Jackie was a great ambassador for our club – always welcoming and helpful to new and established members.

“Jackie was elected onto the Sussex County Contract Bridge Association Management Committee in April 2002 and became the first female county chairman in 2007 until April 2012 when she became a vice-president of the county.

“Jackie’s commitment to bridge was evident through the hard work she showed to her local club, as well as the service and care she showed towards the county of Sussex. She was a gregarious, approachable, well-respected person both at club and county levels and the courage and fortitude Jackie showed over recent months was an inspiration to us all. She will be greatly missed by all her bridge friends.”

A member of Cuckfield Bridge Club, she was elected onto the County Management Committee in April 2002 where she ran the ladies’ pairs and men’s pairs competition for Sussex. In September 2012 Jackie was awarded the English

Bridge Union's prestigious Dimmie Fleming award for her services to bridge in Sussex. It publicly recognises those who do not hold an official English Bridge Union office, but have for a long time worked hard for bridge usually at county level.

The funeral service was held at Cuckfield Holy Trinity Church on Thursday, November 29.

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OUTREACH PROJECTS RECEIVE POSITIVE FEEDBACK

As one of their initiatives in 2012, the SCCBA has launched an 'Outreach Project'. County

Chairman Joy Mayall explains: 'We are committed to helping our bridge clubs in Sussex and encouraging more people to take up bridge. To this end we have launched a project which involves us creating a display at all key libraries in Sussex, informing the public of their local bridge clubs and local bridge teachers.

We have purchased a set of display boards and each week hope to display local 'bridge' information to the public at a different library across the county. We have found the library service to be very helpful and receptive to this idea - so far feedback has been positive.'



Hazel Ogden and Betty Lecky-Thompson recruiting Bridge players in Crawley

Pictured are Crawley Bridge Club players Hazel Ogden and Betty Lecky-Thompson, manning the information display at the Outreach Project in the Crawley library. Displays have also been set up in Haywards Heath and East Grinstead, with more planned for Horsham, Henfield and other venues in Sussex.

WHO RUNS THE COUNTY ?

Most players in the county want to play bridge & nothing more. They are generally appreciative of others efforts to organise & run events but don't either know how it all happens or want to get involved. However every member has the power to influence the course the county takes by using his vote at the AGM or indeed by contacting one of the elected members & putting forward his views.

All the main committee, the Management Committee & the Officers, like the Chairman, are elected for one year by the members of the county at the AGM. Recently the AGM has been held immediately before the Swiss Teams at the Spring Congress so that those attending can partake of the free sandwiches & coffee & then go on to play bridge.

The committee meets about 4 times a year & delegates from clubs are invited to these meetings so that the views of individual clubs are heard & policies can be developed that reflect the views of the members.

The actual running of events is done by a number of organizers some of whom are committee members & some not but the county has many other functions including education & giving advice to individuals & clubs.

The county is always in need of volunteers so if you would like to make a contribution please get in touch. Experience is valuable but not vital as the county does provide support.



*Mervyn Wotton, our hardworking
Webmaster*

SCCBA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2013

The next Association AGM will be held at Uckfield on 7th April 2013, 11.30am. Full details of the Agenda and other papers 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, details will be published

on the County website. If any member wishes to receive a personal copy of the Agenda this can be obtained either by emailing the Hon Secretary (for an electronic copy) or by sending him a self addressed A4 sized 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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THE SCCBA'S FUTURE USE OF NEWSLETTERS AND CALENDARS

The costs of production and issue of paper newsletters and calendars represent a significant proportion of the annual cost of administration of the Association's business.

Over recent months a debate has developed within the Management Committee about future options for issuing these publications and this article now aims to give the wider membership the opportunity to have their say.

Currently the Association aims to issue two paper newsletters per year in February and July. The latter is accompanied by the annual Calendar which contains a raft of useful information about the Association, its key contacts and events, together with basic information about each of its affiliated clubs.

In addition, each issue is usually accompanied by flyers for the various major competitions which the Association organises.

In the past we have sent these two issues to individual members by post but this is becoming increasingly expensive with each issue now costing between £3500 and £4000. Research conducted by a Management Committee member shows that no other County issues two or more newsletters and some counties are placing ever increasing emphasis on the use of their web sites as the principal method of informing their members about contacts, events, etc. Were Sussex to do that there would be the potential for a reduction in the current P2P county charge of 7p per session. As a reduction of, say, 2-3p would be unlikely to result in reduced table charges at clubs, an alternative approach might involve retention of the current P2P charge allowing increased investment in other

activities such as expansion of teaching opportunities, support of local club activities such as mentoring, or giving further encouragement to the recruitment of younger players.

To help the Management Committee to reach a considered view, what are your views on the following questions?

Question 1: By which of the following methods would you prefer to receive future newsletters/calendars:

1. As currently, twice a year, on paper and sent to individual members by post.
2. As currently, twice a year, on paper but sent in bulk to clubs for local distribution.
3. Only once a year (in July with the calendar), on paper and sent to individual members by post with competition flyers sent in bulk to clubs at other times.
4. Not at all on paper leaving you to access the information in question via the county web site as and when you need to.

Question 2: If you have not chosen option 1 in question 1, which of the following would you support in relation to the potential for using the resultant savings?

1. A reduction in the county P2P charge equivalent to the savings made, effective from 1 April 2013.
2. Retention of the current county P2P charge releasing the savings made for investment elsewhere from 1 April 2013 onwards.

Question 3: If you have chosen option 2 in question 2, please specify which activities you believe should benefit from further investment.

Responses: Please send your responses to the SCCBA Hon. Sec. Dick Wheeler by post (27 Bodmin Road, Worthing BN13 3HE) or by e-mail (dick.wheeler@btinternet.com) by the end of March 2013.

There is a great deal going on at the Avenue Bridge Club in Hove nowadays. You may lose your shirt playing rubber bridge in the afternoon (or win someone else's – I do hope it fits) and then recover your honour at duplicate in the evening. But you have always been able to do those things here. What may be new to some is that we now have three thriving chess clubs based at the club (including a Junior Chess Club), a scrabble club and a music society. And if that were not enough, we are going to have a drama group in the New Year! And there's more!

Richard Newton has owned the club since January 2001 and under his proprietorship, not only has the club maintained its bridge base, but also it has striven to attract other interests that would both benefit the club members and give the club a broader local focus. We all well remember in Richard's speech in his first Club AGM as Proprietor that he said that he had been advised by the current government that, as a farmer he should diversify. And at the Avenue he has been good to his word.

We have a weekly programme of duplicate every evening from Monday-Friday starting at 7.30 pm, with the Thursday duplicate being a broad Simple Systems duplicate, very suitable for novice players who are welcome at all our games. Our rubber bridge games happen every afternoon from Tuesday-Saturday, with £1/100 chicago played every day and 10p/100 rubber taking place on Fridays and Saturdays. We also have an extensive teaching programme with Sandra Landy and myself both running courses on a termly basis, and weekly supervised sessions throughout the year; on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons and, courtesy of Jill Armstrong's Bridge Bug, on a Wednesday evening.



This year we have added another regular big event to our monthly itinerary. The Avenue Teams League on the 4th Tuesday of the month is well established and thriving (with sixteen teams competing on a monthly basis this year). The

Avenue Non-Swiss Pairs is a unique event, which has taken off in a big way with 32 pairs playing on the second Wednesday.

A warning from one who knows. As the event is unique, scoring programmes have to be coaxied into scoring it and the monthly seeded draw takes me an afternoon in a darkened room with a wet towel wrapped around my head to accomplish. As much work as anyone might hope to obtain from one event! My grateful thanks go to David Galpin who acts as TD on Non-Swiss Pairs evenings, whilst I skulk away as scorer. Both the Avenue League and the Non-Swiss Pairs run from September-November and again from January-June (Avenue League) or January-May (Non-Swiss Pairs).



So, you know what we do and when we do it, so come along and join in the fun! Look at us online at www.avenuebridgeclub.co.uk and if you want to get involved with our other activities, drop me an email at avenuebridgeclub@aol.com.

Avenue Bridge Club, 15 Third Avenue, Hove, BN3 2PB. Tel: 01273 775752

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SUSSEX PLAYER SELECTED FOR ENGLAND JUNIOR TROPHY

Many congratulations to Sussex Junior player Chris Derrick who was selected to play for the England Under-20 team in the Junior Channel Trophy on December 21st-23rd. Chris partnered Will Roper from Chippenham in a team of 6. Chris is the first Sussex junior in recent years to have played for England.



Chris Derrick - photo courtesy of Shoreham Herald

Very well done !

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INVITATION PAIRS Q & A

Following comments at a meeting of the SCCBA Management Committee, the Q & A below is provided for those member pairs who wish to understand the nature of the competition and, if they aspire to do so, how they might register their interest.

Q. What is the Invitation Pairs?

A. As the name suggests, the competition is by invitation only and it provides those pairs which aspire to represent the County in the future with a regular opportunity to test themselves against others of a similar standard.

Q. What is involved in participation?

A. In 2012, there were eight rounds involved, from April to November at approximately monthly intervals. The best six results count towards the final position.

Q. Where do these rounds take place?

A. At various clubs within the County.

Q. How many pairs are involved?

A. Currently the complement is 33 pairs reflecting the space available at the venues employed.

Q. The number of tables involved in the 2012 rounds varies from 12 (in October) to 16 (in July). Why aren't all of the spaces filled in each round?

A. The competition allows each member of each pair to play with a substitute twice. Sometimes due to holidays or illness pairs are unable to play.

Q. If the current complement fills the space available, how do other aspiring pairs register their interest?

A. The Organiser (Andrea Galpin – andreagalpin@googlemail.com) maintains a waiting list and other pairs may be invited as and when the opportunity arises.

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TEACHER TRAINING DAYS



The County organised two teacher training days, enabling Sussex bridge teachers to receive their EBUTA accreditation. Teachers from the following clubs attended: The Meridian, Forest Row, West Sussex, Bognor, Crawley, The Avenue and Old Barn Bridge, Club who hosted the training days. Pictured below in action, is the Instructor, June Booty an EBU Senior Tournament Director. The names of the teachers are: Dave Burman, Colin Hillyer, Ken Oliver, Carol Mitchell, Hazel Beveridge, Ed Barter, Helen Kent, Richard Jameson, Jill Armstrong, Dave Armstrong, Keith Hotchkiss and Sandra Landy**.

All passed the exam at the end of the two day course and all now have the EBUTA accreditation - **Sandra Landy who was one of the authors of the original teaching course!

Many thanks to Linda Souter - Organiser.

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GOLF DAY



No, this picture has not crept into the wrong newsletter! This happy foursome played in SCCBA's first golf/bridge tournament last September.

Pictured are Liz Dewar, Norman Hardy, Sue Ponsford and Chris Gray - on the first tee. Another sunny day is promised for this year's second golf/bridge tournament to be held on Wednesday 18th September at Haywards Heath Golf Club. Flyers will be sent out in due course but you can secure your entry by emailing Chris Jago on jagoc@btinternet.com.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2013

5th-7th April	Spring Congress Uckfield Civic Hall
7th April, 11.30am	Annual General Meeting Uckfield Civic Hall
11th May	SCCBA Basic Bridge Pairs, St Leonards Bridge Club.
9th June	Henfield Candles, Henfield Hall.
23rd June	SCCBA Green Point Pairs, East Grinstead Sports Hall
21st July	SCCBA Green Point Teams, East Grinstead Sports Hall
13th-15th September	Autumn Congress, Patcham Bridge Club

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SCCBA RESULTS - JUNE 2012 TO JANUARY 2013

Henfield Candles: Jean Smallwood & Fran Thornton, Eddie Lucioni & Irvine Caplan; SCCBA/EBU Swiss Pairs: Marietta Andree & Janet Cahm; SCCBA Venture Pairs: Joy Mayall & Liz Dewar; SCCBA/EBU Swiss Teams: Mick Carrington & Dave Franklin, Gerry Stanford & Joy Mayall; Autumn Congress Pairs: Tim Dickinson & Mike Dancy; Autumn Congress Swiss Teams: Neil Watts & Christine Jepson, Jeremy Willans & Jill Skinner; Kremer Dersch Trophy: Avenue (Richard Newton & Julian Mitchell, Sarah Mitchell & Per Lindsten); SCCBA Ladies Pairs: Andrea Galpin & Lydia Stanford; SCCBA Midweek Swiss Pairs: David & Marie Gritt; East Grinstead Basic Bridge Pairs: Nigel & Kate Flynn; Invitation Pairs 2012: Andrew Southwell & Ian Lancaster; Bognor Basic Bridge Pairs: Ann Walker & Keith Hotchkiss; SCCBA New Year Swiss Teams: Neil Watts & Philip Hunt, Nigel Urban & Andrew Morris.



*SCCBA New Year Swiss Teams winners:
From left to right: Nigel Urban, Neil Watts
(SCCBA Chairman Joy Mayall) Philip
Hunt & Andrew Morris.*

Consider this defensive problem, sitting East:

Dealer West Game all		Final contract: 4♠ Lead: 2♥
	<div> <div>N</div> <div>W<div>E</div>S</div> </div>	♠ Ax ♥ Axx ♦ xxxx ♣ Kxxx
W N E S 2♥ x 3♥ 3♠ P 4♠ all pass		

Partner leads the two of hearts to your Ace, declarer following small – how do you propose to beat this contract?

You have three tricks, and there are some rather obscure chances for a fourth:

- 1) Partner could have Q10x of spades.
- 2) Partner could have the Ace of diamonds
- 3) Partner could have opened a five-card weak-2, and the King is cashing

None of these is very likely, but there is an almost certain set available assuming that NS are in an eight-card fit.

What is partner's two of hearts? Playing standard 4th best (or even 3rd and 5th) it is clearly non-systemic, and partner is trying to send you an urgent message.

The only conclusion is that he is void in clubs, and you should switch to a low club (yes, into dummy's AQ10x) to give him a ruff, and another ruff when you win the Ace of spades.

The full hand:

Dealer West Game all	♠ KJxx ♥ Qxx ♦ Kx ♣ AQTx	Final contract: 4S Lead: 2♥
♠ xxx ♥ KJTxxx ♦ xxxx ♣ -	W N E S	♠ Ax ♥ Axx ♦ xxxx ♣ Kxxx
W N E S 2♥ x 3♥ 3♠ P 4♠ all pass	♠ QTxx ♥ x ♦ AQx ♣ Jxxxx	

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ALARM CLOCK SIGNALS - RICHARD FEDRICK

I was persuaded to write something about ‘alarm-clock’ signals by a hand (board 31) that came up at the New Year Swiss Teams at Henfield.

Consider it as a defensive problem from East’s perspective:

Dealer South NS Vulnerable	♠ KT92 ♥ KQ ♦ T74 ♣ AJT9	Final contract: 5♠ Lead:
	W N E S	♠ J8 ♥ 9643 ♦ AKJ95 ♣ 82
S W N E 1♣ 3♥ x 5♥ 5♠ all pass		

While partner thinks about his opening lead (you play standard leads, including MUD), you possibly regret not bidding 5D instead of 5H to help partner. But today is your lucky day, the ox opposite fishes out the eight of diamonds! You

cash the Ace and King, declarer following small then Queen and partner playing the two of diamonds on the second round.

Where is the third trick coming from? Partner could have a 6 card suit at this vulnerability, so maybe you should just play a heart and cash his Ace. Even if declarer does ruff it, you’ve given nothing away and it’s got to be better then picking up partner’s potential club Queen, right?

Wrong!

Partner has petered in diamonds, despite holding three (you know declarer has only two). He has made a deliberately anti-systemic lead and that can only mean one thing. He must be void in clubs, and only a switch to that suit beats the contract. The full hand:

Dealer South NS Vulnerable	♠ KT92 ♥ KQ ♦ T74 ♣ AJT9	Final contract: 5♠ Lead:
♠ 763 ♥ AJT8752 ♦ 832 ♣ -	<div>N</div> <div>W E</div> <div>S</div>	♠ J8 ♥ 9643 ♦ AKJ95 ♣ 82
S W N E 1♣ 3♥ x 5♥ 5♠ all pass	♠ AQ54 ♥ - ♦ Q6 ♣ KQ76543	

The hand was played in 5S (or higher) eleven times. It was defeated just twice – congratulations to those pairs that found the correct defence. Special commiserations to the two Wests who went for glory with the lead of the two of hearts – your -1460s are a harsh return for good thinking (though you may want to discuss with partner his lack of a 5D bid to help).

The SCCBA newsletter is published twice a year. Please email any comments (including, news items, results, pictures and articles to Yves Lebrec, Editor (sccba@lebrec.com)).