

Surrey County Bridge Association

Newsletter # 27 September 2017

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President's Introduction

It is a great honour to have been invited to take on the position of President of SCBA. I have been a Surrey member for almost forty years, during which there have been many changes to the bridge scene in the county. When I moved to the Surrey/Hants border area, there were just a couple of duplicate clubs in the locality, with a bit of rubber bridge being played at other clubs. When I look at the list of clubs in Surrey today, I keep being surprised at the range of bridge options available.

However, one of the issues which has been a theme of SCBA newsletters of late has been the dearth of younger players taking up the game. The Committee is making sterling efforts to encourage school and junior bridge, but we can all help with the campaign by pointing children, or grandchildren, towards this splendid pastime and perhaps helping with the teaching of bridge. The EBU and EBED offer extensive training opportunities for prospective teachers; those of you freed from the tyranny of paid employment might find this a rewarding way to occupy some of your free time.

I would also encourage you to give even more support for SCBA events. The Surrey green pointed Swiss Pairs and Swiss Teams take place in Guildford at the end of this month. Why not put in an entry now, if you have not already done so? The Lady Rose It would be nice to see more Surrey clubs entering a team, or preferably more than one team, in the EBU National Inter-Club Knockout, which is still open for entries as I write. Regionalised draws limit travelling in early rounds, and it is a great opportunity to play teams from clubs in adjacent counties.

Please continue to support your county and enjoy your bridge!

Tim Green President SCBA

The 2017-18 Calendar

Month	Date	Day	Time	Event Name	Location
Sep-17	17	Sun	13:00	Richmond Blue Pointed Swiss Pairs	Richmond
	23	Sat	12 noon	Surrey Green Pointed Swiss Pairs	Guildford
	24	Sun	12 noon	Surrey Green Pointed Swiss Teams	Guildford
Oct-17	8	Sun	13:00	Surrey Club Pairs Challenge Final	Oxshott
	8	Sun	13:00	Metropolitan Cup	East Grinstead
	15	Sun	13:00	Woking Blue Point Swiss Pairs	Woking
	21	Sat	14:00	Petersfield Blue Point Swiss Teams	Petersfield
Nov. 17	15	Wed	11:00	Surrey Chairman's Lunch	Bookham Old Hall
Nov-17	19	Sun	13:00	Richmond Blue Pointed Swiss Pairs	Richmond
D 17	3	Sun	13:00	<u>Surrey Seniors Pairs</u>	Oxshott
Dec-17	4 - 8 at Clubs			Surrey Dorin Salver Simultaneous Pairs	Clubs
Jan-18	14	Sun	13:00	Surrey Affiliated Clubs Teams of 8	Richmond
	28	Sun	13:00	Surrey Mixed Pairs	Oxshott
Feb-18	4	Sun	13.30	Richmond Blue Pointed Swiss Pairs	Richmond
	18	Sun	13:00	Surrey Mens Pairs	Oxshott
	18	Sun	13:00	Surrey Ladies Pairs	Oxshott
Mar-18	25	Sun	13.30	Bourne Blue Pointed Swiss Pairs	Bourne Club, Farnham
Apr-18	8	Sun	13:00	Surrey County Pairs Cup & Plate	Oxshott
May-18	13	Sun	13:00	Surrey Mary Edwards Cup	Oxshott
Jun-18	3	Sun	13.30	Richmond Blue Pointed Swiss Pairs	Richmond
	10	Sun	13:00	Surrey League Finals	Oxshott
	24	Sun	13:00	Surrey Wanborough Cup	Oxshott
	25 - 29 at Clubs			Surrey Simultaneous Pairs	Clubs
Jul-18	1	Sun	13:00	Surrey AGM Pairs	Oxshott

For more information on events that Surrey County Bridge Association run <u>Click Here</u> or click on a link in the Calendar on the website. To enter an event either online using the <u>Event Hub</u>, download an entry form, or contact the competitions secretary, Shirley Pritchard <u>competitionsecretary.scba@bridgewebs.com</u>

Lady Rose Teams Knockout

The Lady Rose is a Green Pointed knockout completion and registration is via the Surrey Website: http://www.bridgewebs.com/surrey/. It is a seeded competition so that teams successful in previous years do not enter in the first round and teams knocked out in the first two rounds are entered in to the Lady Rose Plate consolation event.

As a reminder, any person that played in either the most recent Wanborough Cup or the Affiliated teams of 8 will get free entry to this competition.

The winning team will represent Surrey in the Pachabo Cup. Closing data for entries is 25 September 2017

Hall of Fame 2016-17

Events in Blue make up the SCBA Series of events that contribute to the Victor Ludorum						
Competition	Winners					
Affiliated Clubs Tooms of 9	RICHMOND - BLUE: Margaret Page & Patrick Bohan, C Lambe & John Balson					
Affiliated Clubs Teams of 8	Dan O'Farrell & Maureen Dennison, Ting To & Corneliu Rimboiu					
AGM Pairs	Maciej Pilecki & Stanley Herman					
Bank Holiday Blue Point Pairs	No event - will be part of the 17-18 Season (Aug 17)					
Club Chairmens Lunch - By Invitation	Marion Hart & David Sims					
Club Pairs Challenge "A" Final	Peter Hardyment & Saji Ispahani					
Club Pairs Challenge "B" Final	Ian Lewis & Derek Gunter					
County Pairs Cup	Joint Winners: Frances Hinden and Graham Osborne; & Mike Scoltock and Jeffrey Allerton					
County Pairs Plate	Peter Hardyment and Bob James					
Dorin Salver Day 1 Monday	(70.12%) - Malcolm Oddy & Bob Guille					
Dorin Salver Day 2 Tuesday	(70.44%) - David Burch & Liz Dunjay					
Dorin Salver Day 3 Wednesday	(68.66%) - Simon Whiteside & Maxine Julius					
Dorin Salver Day 4 Thursday	(74.82%) - Alan Webber & Mick Edwards (Dorin Salver)					
Dorin Salver Day 5 Friday	(71.41%) - Derek & Alison Gardner					
Ladies Pairs	Michelle Lundqvist & Sandra Cape					
Lady Rose Cup	Frances Hinden, Graham Osborne, Jeffrey Allerton, Mike Scoltock, Paula Leslie					
Lady Rose Plate	Tony Richards, Tim Warren, Alan Cadge, Derek Hedley-Smith, John Manches					
Mary Edwards Cup	Mayfield: Peter Lee & Mike Scoltock					
Mens Pairs	Richard Granville & Graham Sadie					
Mixed Pairs	Marion Hart & Bob Guille					
Novice League Final	John & Jane Gallagher, Keith Oatway, Imelda Moore.					
Seniors Pairs	Steve Lock & Graham E Osborne					
Surrey Green Pointed Swiss Pairs	Christine Dyer & David Dawson and Stephen Brown & Stuart McPhee (Joint Winners)					
Surrey Green Pointed Swiss Teams	Martin Garvey, Jeffrey Allerton, Frances Hinden & Graham Osborne					
Surrey League Division 1	Frances Hinden, Graham Osborne, Jeffrey Allerton, Peter Lee, Paula Leslie, Mike Scoltock					
Surrey League Final Division 2	John Clift, Demetrius Souppouris, Dave Sellman, Brian Adlam.					
Surrey League Final Division 3	Peter Exworthy, Graham Morris, Chris Everest, Richard Herbert					
Surrey League Final Division 4	Keith Fowler's Team					
Surrey Sim Pairs Feb Day 1 Monday	(69.01%) - Dip Dasgupta & Don Butt					
Surrey Sim Pairs Feb Day 2 Tuesday	(65.12%) - Keith Oatway & Imelda Moore					
Surrey Sim Pairs Feb Day 3 Wednesday	(66.85%) - Elaine & Ron Ewins					
Surrey Sim Pairs Feb Day 4 Thursday	(70.91%) - Penny Webster-Smith & Sandra Cape					
Surrey Sim Pairs Feb Day 5 Friday	(62.79%) - David & Connie Lofts					
Victor Ludorum	Frances Hinden & Graham Osborne					
Wanborough Cup	Farnham: Varda Derwig, Jack Goody, Tim Rees, Simon Foale					

Committee Meetings - Open Invitation

We recently issued an open invitation to all Surrey members to attend one of our main Committee meetings with the objective of broadening the knowledge among our members of what the SCBA Committee actually does. Two Surrey members took up this invitation for our meeting in July and we currently have one person signed up for our October meeting. We can take a maximum of three people per meeting so if you are interested then please feel free to contact our Secretary, Gail Norman (secretary.scba@bridgewebs.com) and she will fit you in.

Comments from one of the attendees in July:

"I recently accepted an open invitation from the SCBA committee to attend one of their meetings. I was made very welcome and, to my surprise, wasn't just an observer but was included in all the discussions and contributions were welcomed.

I would definitely recommend others take up the open offer as it seems a really good way to involve members and give everyone more understanding of the workings of the SCBA."

Laws and Regulations 2017

As you maybe aware the World Bridge Federation have recently updated the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, and the EBU have also carried out their annual review of their Regulations. Several Surrey clubs have run training session on these changes so many of our Club Directors should now be up to speed on the new requirements.

In a recent Newsletter we included a note of what is allowed when making strong artificial opening bids. As this is one area where the EBU have changed their requirements we include a revised version of that document in this Newsletter. In addition you can access some useful documents in the Library on our website http://www.bridgewebs.com/surrey/ on this, and other, topics.

Surrey and Novice Leagues

Just a reminder that these competitions are now open for entries. The purpose of these is to provide the opportunity for players of all levels of ability and experience to play teams bridge in the comfort of their own homes.

The **Surrey League** is divided into four Divisions:

- Division 1: This is a Blue Pointed event currently limited to eight teams. It is suitable for top Surrey players, typically NGS Ace to Queen;
- Division 2: Suitable for strong Club players typically NGS ~10;
- Division 3: Suitable for most club players, typically NGS ~8
- Division 4: Suitable for Improver and social players, typically NGS ~ 6. EBU Membership is not required.

Depending on the number of entries teams in Divisions 2 to 4 are grouped geographically to reduce the amount of travel and will typically involve 4, 5 or 6 matches in the period October to April, with a final in June 2018.

The closing date for entries is 29 September 2017.

The **Novice League** is suitable for players currently having lessons or just starting out. EBU membership is not required. Depending on the number of entries teams are grouped geographically to reduce the amount of travel and will typically involve 4 or 5 matches in the period November to May, with a final in June 2018.

The closing date for entries is 27 October 2017

Get more information and enter via our website at: http://www.bridgewebs.com/surrey/

Café Bridge

Café Bridge is continuing to grow in popularity and vast sums are being raised for Charities

- 12 Sep (Tues) Brook Green café bridge If you are interested in a last minute place for the London
 Metropolitan Bridge Association's cafe bridge in Brook Green, please get in touch with Chris
 Duckworth via the LMBA website metrobridge.weebly.com/brook-green.html as soon as possible.
 This event is run by Chris in aid of Mind, and directed by David Muller. Victor will be scoring, so see you there.
- 27 Nov (Mon) Wimbledon Village café bridge Join Rosey Hickson, Ned and Victor for the popular Wimbledon Village event in aid of Orbis UK, now its second year. Book online at brianbridge.net/wimb2017
- 5 Oct (Thurs) Guildford cafe bridge, run by Lynn Paynter l.paynter@btopenworld.com in aid of Breast Cancer Now and LinkAble charities. Booking info here: Guildford flyer
- 16 Oct (Mon) Esher cafe bridge run by Lou Pilcher in aid of The Princess Alice Hospice. Info and online booking here: brianbridge.net/esher2017

For up-to-date booking instructions and full cafe bridge calendar, check regularly at brianbridge.net/cafe. Please send Victor info about any event you feel should be included.

Recruit New Players

Every year the majority of new players are recruited to start on Beginner Courses so that they can learn through the winter months. There are Taster Sessions and Beginner courses near you. Please encourage younger people to take up this wonderful game and invite them to a Taster session. Read some of the extensive list of courses on offer in the Club News section of this Newsletter.

There are also Adult Education courses, U3A programmes and EBED Fast Track Bridge Course to get players into clubs as quickly as possible.

Watch a video on Bridge Courses

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AIA5I8cV5A0

Strong Opening Bids – What is allowed

Strong Opening Bids – What is allowed Revised 1 August 2017

Effective 1 August 2017 the EBU changed their restrictions on what partnership understandings are allowed for strong opening bids, in particular they removed the concept of the Extended Rule of 25. The purpose of this note is to provide the new requirements and to draw a distinction between legal/illegal bids and allowed partnership understandings.

Illegal bids

Illegal bids are bids disallowed under the Laws such as:

- Bids out of rotation
- Insufficient bids
- Bids after the final pass of an auction
- Bids when obliged by the Laws to pass.

So in the context of an opening bid the only immediately illegal bid is one that is out of rotation.

Allowed partnership understandings

However the EBU makes some restrictions on allowed partnership understandings, the details of which can be found in the EBU Blue Book. While it is not illegal *per se* to open with a strong artificial bid on a hand that does not comply with the requirements of the Blue Book, it is not allowed to have a partnership understanding that includes such opening bids.

Effective 1 August 2017 to be considered a 'Strong' opening bid or overcall, the minimum allowed by agreement is either or both of:

- (a) any hand of at least 16 HCP
- (b) any hand of at least 12 HCP with at least five controls (see below).

Partnerships who agree that an artificial opening (such as 2.) may be made with a hand with a lot of playing strength but limited high cards (such as eight solid spades and little else) must disclose this clearly. For example, the opening could be described as "Either a strong hand or eight playing tricks in a major". This applies even if the minimum agreed strength is in line with (b) above.

There is no restriction on the strength of a natural two-level or higher opening bid but similar requirements for full disclosure apply.

Controls

An Ace counts as two controls and a King as one control.

Can I open with an artificial strong bid on a hand that does not meet the "Strong" requirements of the Blue Book?

You can open with an artificial bid of any strength with a long suit *other* than the suit opened. So you can open a Benji 2. showing an "Acol Two" in any suit or a strong balanced hand, as long as if your suit is clubs it has the requisite 16+ points or 12+ points and five controls. Just don't tell your opponents that you are promising a strong hand if you might have eight solid spades and nothing else.

Other than that, you can do whatever you like, but this must be as much of a surprise to your partner as to your opponents. In other words it must not be consistent with your partnership understanding, whether through explicit agreement or previous experience. Your bid may be a psyche, a mis-bid, or a deliberate deviation from your agreed system. In the case of a psyche this will be obvious to the director and should be recorded as such. In the case of a mis-bid or a deliberate deviation you will need to convince the director of this and that may be difficult if you are not able to provide a convention card that makes your partnership agreement clear.

Can I open with a natural strong bid on a hand that does not meet the requirements of the Blue Book?

Yes. There are no restrictions on permitted partnership agreements for natural 2-level opening bids. However, you are still required to disclose your partnership agreement of the strength of the bid on your convention card and in reply to any question from your opponents.

In summary

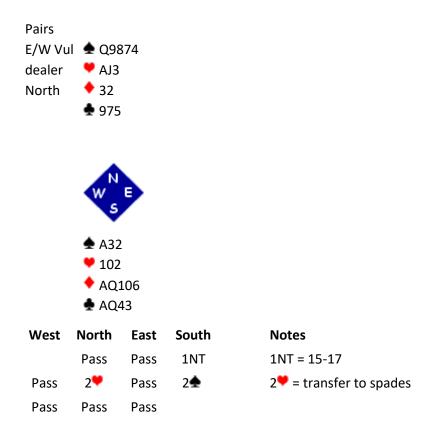
To avoid unnecessary confusion at the table it is best to make sure that all your artificial strong opening bids comply with the requirements of the Blue Book, failing which you should be prepared to have a detailed conversation with the director

Bridge Hand

West shown up at Bank Holiday Swiss Pairs (by Jeffrey Allerton)

The first event of the 2017/18 season took place last week with the return of Surrey's Bank Holiday Swiss Pairs on Monday 28th August, held at Oxshott, the central location used for most Surrey CBA events this season. The venue was virtually full and the event was efficiently run by Martin Lee and Shirley Pritchard.

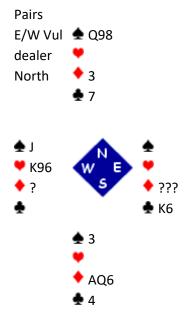
The winners were Mike Hampton and Michael Prior, visiting from Kent. They defended the hand below from a key match against the second placed pair. Let's look at the hand from the declarer's point of view.



West led the ♣J, won by the Queen. Now, South led out ♥10, which ran round to East's King. East played back ♥8, which round to dummy's Jack. The heart continuation is slightly surprising: could East be looking for a ruff himself? South now led Ace and another spade, West winning the second round with the King and East following with the 5 and 6. West exited with a heart, won by dummy's Ace as East discarded ♦4. So West started with six hearts and was hoping that East, not South, had started with three trumps.

West has nine major suit cards to East's four, so the chances of both $^{\blacklozenge}$ KJ being onside appear to have increased. South now tried a diamond to the 10, but that lost to West's Jack. West exited with $^{\clubsuit}$ 2 to the 10 and Ace.

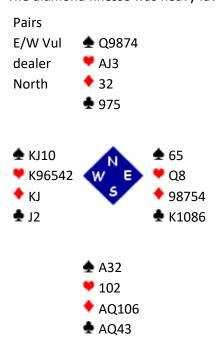
South now knew a lot about the hand. West had started with 3-6 in the majors. East/West were playing standard leads and would not be expected to lead the \$\lefta\$Jack from a holding of Jxx or KJx [and would probably have preferred a singleton diamond lead in any case], so West appeared to have started with a 3=6=2=2 shape. This implied that the end position was:



The unplaced key card was • K. If West started with this card it is dropping if South plays the Ace, but East is far more likely to hold this card, having started with 5, and indeed West might have overcalled holding 3 Kings and a 6-card heart suit.

At the table South saw that he could cater for both possibilities. He ran all of North's trumps, retaining AQ in hand. East had to keep the master club so could only retain one diamond. When 3 was led at trick 12 and East followed with the 9, South had no hesitation in playing the Ace, dropping West's K as East last card was known to be K. This position is known as a "show-up squeeze" because West's K is shown up to be dropping at trick 12. If East had held K all along, then it would have been his only remaining diamond and he would have been forced to play it at trick 12.

The diamond finesse was heavy favourite to succeed, but why not pick up extra chance? Full deal:



Club News

3 Counties Bridge

We plan to run six new beginners classes, so there will be a course which should suit everyone, in:

Guildford, Farnham, Churt, Dorking, Fleet, Farncombe

We will be also running a series of seminars aimed at intermediate players with 3-6 years experience. They are on **Wednesday evenings (Churt) and Thursday evenings (Farnham)**, which will be covering:

Reaching the perfect level	Boring raises, exciting raises, splinter bids, LTC
Responder's bidding on the second / third bid?	Forcing Bids and Fourth Suit Forcing
till a bla:	
Not missing those Slams	Cue Bidding and Bidding slams, (RCKBlackwood)
Overcalls	Types, Unassuming Cue Bids, Two suited overcalls
Double trouble!	More Takeout doubles, Penalty doubles, other Doubles
Competitive Bidding	Sacrifice, Protective bidding, Competitive over 1NT

We have Learning Weekends planned at:

Balmer Lawn, New Forest - 1, 2, 3 December 2017 - Competitive Bidding

For further details view Balmer Lawn Learning Weekend Competitive.pdf or email Laura Saka

Future Learning Weekend Dates:

23, 24, 25 February 2018

5, 6, 7 October 2018

16, 17, 18 November 2018

For further details contact douglaswright@3countiesbridge.com or 07801 989630

Dorking Bridge Club

Open Evening 14 Sep 7.15pm, which will be followed with Beginner and Improver Lessons Contact Steve Hooker steve@hookeruk.com

Caterham Bridge Club

EBED Fast Track Bridge Course



We would like to offer Bridge clubs an opportunity to participate in this programme and support potential members through the learning process.

Fast Track Bridge is the latest learning package from English Bridge Education and Development. Fast Track Bridge course is unique in that it provides teachers the opportunity to use the national learning programme in a variety of settings other than the traditional 'three terms of learning'. The programme can be delivered over 24 hours of learning leading to a players playing within a few weeks.

Tony Cherrett will be running the first course over 2 weekends (October 7th/8th and November 4th/5th). The participants will then be supported in their learning with assisted play, online resources and with further tuition.

Please register your interest here or e-mail or call Tony or Tabitha on 01883 730304.

Fun 2 Play Bridge

Lessons at all levels and Gentle Duplicate Club in Thames Ditton:

Meena Samani, an experienced Bridge teacher, gives fun and informative Bridge lessons at various levels and runs a gentle Duplicate club twice a month. Please contact Meena at meena samani@hotmail.com or call her on 020 8339 0645 on any of the following:

- Beginners Bridge, Mon 1:30-3:30pm, starting Mon 18 Sep still a few places left.
- Fun 2 Play Bridge, friendly and gentle duplicate club runs on the first and third Mon evenings of the month please see http://www.bridgewebs.com/fun2play/ website for more details.
- Session on Transfers on Fri 29 Sep, 10:30-12:30: This session covers Transfer bids after partner opens 1NT. There is a common view that Transfers are used to allow the 'stronger' 1NT opener play the hand, but its actual use is much more to do with the accuracy of bidding responder's hand to show weak, invitational and forcing bids. This session will give a firm grounding on the use of Transfers with the use of tabletop exercises (!!) and lots of practice hands. A fun and participative session.
- Advanced Players: A twice monthly daytime session on either a topic related theme (for example, support raises after a Dbl or an Overcall, the Jacoby 2NT response, Endplays, Defence-Uses of Suit Preference Signals, etc) or a play and review of some selected Duplicate Hands that will give better insight into Duplicate tactics and club play. Please contact Meena to be on the email list for theses sessions or to request a particular topic.

No Fear Bridge Club

10.15 - 12.15 Monday mornings

Parkview Centre, Sheerwater

Improvers

8 lessons starting 25th September

Tutor: Sue Hanrahan

Topics: 4th Suit Forcing, Double & Bid, Weak Stayman. There will be 5 lessons and 3 guided play sessions focusing on these topics.

Full Details and Booking Form

Level 3 – 3-4 years experience

Richmond Bridge Club

Seminar on "How to combat those pesky pre-empts"

Saturday 30 Sep 10.30am

Stefan Skorchev one of the country's leading players, ranked in the top 50, who has an excellent reputation as a teacher.

Richmond Bridge Club are starting two new beginner's courses late September.

An evening class will be held on Mondays at 7.30 pm starting 25th September and a daytime class will start on Wednesdays at 10.30 am from 27th September. There will be a 10 week term.

Please look at the website www.richmondbridgeclub.com or contact Marietta on 07887 781997

South Croydon Bridge Club

Beginner and Improver Taster Sessions on Thursday 21st September. Courses on subsequent Thursdays Contact Andrew Worth southcroydonbridge@gmail.com

Wimbledon Bridge Club

We plan to run two new beginners classes:

Monday mornings 10 to 12, starting on the 18th of September for 10 weeks.

Thursday evenings 7.30 to 9.30, starting on the 21st of September.

We will be also running a series of seminars aimed at intermediate players. They are all on Tuesday afternoons, 13.30 to 15.30. These are the topics and dates:

Negative doubles 3rd of October

Responsive doubles 10th of October

The finesse 17th of October

3rd hand play 31st of October

Attitude signal 7th of November

2nd hand play 14th of November

Red suit transfers 21st of November

We have other classes running at various stages of the beginners curriculum (terms 2 to 4). For any further info please contact Giorgio @ 07981 954740. giorgioprovenza@yahoo.it

Charity News



Charity Bridge Event for Oakleaf Enterprise

We are a mental health charity based in Guildford. Oakleaf is the only mental health charity in Surrey working as a social enterprise to provide vocational training for those suffering from mental health issues. We offer training in horticulture, upholstery, IT and print finishing, enabling people to acquire new skills and ultimately return to work. Alongside these we offer a range of Social Inclusion Activities that cater towards building confidence, physical health and wellbeing.

Camilli Roberts-Da Breau

Fundraising and Partnership Executive

Youth News

Some great news from **Claremont Fan Court School**, where a bridge club will be part of the curriculum for 9-10 year-olds from the coming term. More on this next time.

In addition:

- Our MiniBridge taster session at St John the Baptist School in Woking went well, and we're hoping a club will start there from the autumn term
- We're exploring restarting a club with Charterhouse, a school with a rich bridge history: with both Charterhouse and SJB, it's you, our Surrey members, who have generated the links
- The club at Harrodian is due to restart in October, this time in the senior school
- Unfortunately, despite its earlier success the club at **Greenfield** will not be continuing into next term: the Deputy Head remains keen, though, and it might resume later

Many bridge clubs are making a big effort to encourage youngsters to learn bridge. Wimbledon, for instance, ran 13 sessions over the summer for beginners upwards. Here's a picture of a tournament at the end in which 16 kids took part.



They've had spin-off benefits in attracting students for their adult courses, too. If you'd like to do something similar, please get in touch as we can help you (not least by sharing the lessons of those who've already got the T-shirts).

Our MiniBridge train-the-trainer courses in June at The Bourne in Farnham attracted a remarkable 44 people, and some very positive post-course feedback.

Next Newsletter

The next newsletter will be in December 2017. News, views and interesting hands, what is happening at your club – please send them to me.