

## **History of Oxted Bridge Club by John Seal**

My first knowledge of a Bridge Club in Oxted was being taken to a Rubber Club, which met once a week in the former Red Cross Hall.

This club was strict and very difficult for new players such as myself and Colin Walker. I remember Colin was told by Marjory, a formidable lady, that he would never make a bridge player as he could not even shuffle the cards! I found her and some of the others quite frightening. However that's where I really learned to play. Some years later Marjory joined our present club, and would choose to partner me.

In 1993 when I joined the rubber club there were more than 40 regular players. When the supermarket arrived it provided the present premises.

By 1997 there were only about 8 of us meeting in a small room in the present building. Most players had moved on to duplicate. Colin and I played at the Lingfield club but not together. We decided to form the present Oxted Duplicate Club. The 8 mentioned players formed the nucleus.

Being an EBU member via Lingfield I was able to attend a number of Directors courses. The Duplicate club therefore came in to being 1998/99.

Colin worked hard at getting new members, with some measure of success. However it proved very difficult. I had great difficulty in encouraging players to understand Duplicate, and the necessity, to some extent, of taking it reasonably seriously. Keeping the room quiet nearly defeated me!