



Stratford upon Avon Bridge Club Newsletter – Spring 2025



Stratford Bridge Club on Tour 31 March – 3 April

62 intrepid members, plus some extras who just came for the break, made the c140-mile journey to Langstone Quays Resort on Hayling Island arriving in stunning weather: blue and sunny. Our bridge holiday started over a welcome drink in the bar where we were introduced to our Tournament Director, Sue, and Scorer, Phil. A 3-course dinner in our own dining room followed before moving on to the first bridge session. Everyone played the 9 2-board rounds that evening with a very wide range of experience from Ace to Novice and an equally wide range of results. And there was just about time for a night cap or two....



Tuesday morning, after a good hotel breakfast, served overlooking the beautiful scenery of Langstone Harbour, there was bridge again at 1000. Some stuck with the same pairing throughout whilst others “mixed and matched” as this format provided an opportunity to do so with NGS grades not being affected although Masterpoints were still awarded to the top players at every session.

There was no bridge that afternoon and so we were able to explore the surrounding area. There was a bus stop at the end of the road which took many (for free as it was running late!) down to the south of the island whilst others walked the 4 miles (and some walked back too). It was generally agreed that our hotel was at the better end although there were great views across the Solent to Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight. It was very windy which perhaps explains why windsurfing was invented here. Other excursions took place to the Historic Dockyard in Portsmouth, Port Solent and Spinnaker Tower to the west as well as to places like Emsworth, Bosham and Chichester to the east.



The rest of our all too short bridge holiday passed in a flash. There were another 3 bridge sessions (all well attended) plus further exploring of the area, swimming in the hotel pool, lots more walking and enjoying the wildlife nearby. A particular favourite haunt was the Salt Shack café in adjacent Northney Marina and, for those who wanted to further exercise their little grey cells, a fiendishly difficult quiz about bridge and bridges to fill the very few odd moments had been set.



And so, to our gala dinner on the final night. A different venue, the Spinnaker Room, with the most fabulous view of the sea and a spectacular sunset. Scrubbed up for the event (don't mention the chairman's shoes) we enjoyed our last evening together. There were people to be thanked and prizes to present before being entertained with live music and retiring to the bar for more fun and silly games.



A huge thanks to Lynne and her team of helpers for all their hard work in putting on this event.

Stop Press SBC on Tour 2026

We are planning to go to Harrogate, staying at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. The dates are 23 – 26 March. We are keen to build on this year's success to make the next holiday even better so please let us know your suggestions.

Upcoming Events

Learning & Development

Playing Suit Contracts – Graham Cope Wednesday 23 April 1.30pm – 4.30pm

This session is aimed at those with an NGS grade J or below. The cost is £19.80 per session.

Students Mentored Sunday 11 & Sunday 18 May

At these sessions, our Year 1 and Year 2 students, having completed their lessons, are welcomed to an informal session to play with a more experienced mentor and celebrate their success. If you'd like to volunteer to mentor, please email teaching@stratforduponavonbridgeclub.org.uk

Pre-empts – Graham Cope Wednesday 28 May 1.30pm – 4.30pm

This session is aimed at those with an NGS grade J or below. The cost is £19.80 per session.

“The Card Whisperer - Count and Attitude” – Charlie Bucknell Saturday 7 June all day (a.m. and p.m.)

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Master Class – Abbey Smith Sunday 7 September all day (a.m. and p.m. session)

This session is aimed at those with an NGS grade J or below. The cost is £19.80 per session.

Master Class – Andrew Robson Tuesday 4 November all day (a.m. and p.m. session)

This session is aimed at those with an NGS grade J or below. The cost is £19.80 per session.

Competitions

Mentored Novice Pivot Teams – Sunday 27 April 1.30pm – 5.30pm

Warwickshire County Bridge Association is running its annual Mentored Novice Teams competition at Stratford Bridge Club. Each team will comprise of 3 players with up to 4 years playing experience and with less than 2,500 master points, plus a mentor. Each novice will remain in the same team and rotate partnerships; with everybody getting the opportunity to partner the Stratford mentor.

Championship Handicap Pairs – Thursday 15 May 1.30pm

This annual competition will be run at our club and is open to all. Handicapping means every pair has an equal chance of winning the trophy.

Championship Teams – Thursday 22 May 1.30pm

This annual competition for teams of 4 will be run at our club. Make up your own team or come as a pair and be teamed up on the day.

Oxfordshire Bridge Congress 16 – 17 August and Cheltenham Bridge Congress 23 - 24 August

Why not take a trip to these events in our neighbouring counties.

Social

Quiz Evening – Wednesday 21 May 7pm

Entry is in teams of four and there will be a cheese and biscuits sharing board. Bring your own alcohol/drinks. Please sign up on the notice board. Cost is £30 per team and friends and family are welcome.

Tea and Bridge – Saturday 28 June 1.30pm (*note changed date*)

This will be an afternoon event with bridge and a glorious tea, more details to follow.

Curry and Bridge – Friday 5 September

Get the date in your diary to enjoy curry and bridge.

Christmas Party – Saturday 13 December 1.30pm for 2pm start til late

Our usual end of year celebration with fun bridge, prizes and dinner.

Other News

WCBA Teams Event 16 March

Congratulations to our team of 8 who entered this County event where they achieved 3rd place behind Coventry and North Warwickshire and West Midlands.

Coffee Morning Saturday 26 July 10.00am – 12noon

Following our successful promotional activity last August we will once again be opening the club to people interested in lessons, joining us or simply having a good nose around. We will have flyers available shortly and would ask members to take them and use them to promote the event locally. We'll also be looking for volunteers to help on the day.