

Suffolk Contract Bridge Association

Chairman's Report on the activities of the Association for the year ending 31st March 2022

Last year's Chairman's report highlighted that there had been no face to face bridge played in Suffolk either at club level or county level, due to COVID-19 and the resulting restrictions on social activity. This situation continued for the first half of the current year; in the second half of the year a number of Suffolk clubs (and the EBU) started to hold some face to face sessions, while the enthusiasm for on-line bridge remained evident. After two years of mostly on-line bridge for many of our players, without much face to face bridge, it is clear that the bridge landscape has now changed; many of our customers, who before Covid played mostly face to face bridge, are now looking to play a mix of on-line and face to face bridge. Congratulations to the many members of our clubs and of our county who have been working so hard and so creatively to adapt to this new landscape. The next 18 months will see further changes, with a number of exciting initiatives planned or already underway.

Malcolm Pryor, on behalf of SCBA

SCBA 2021-22 - overview

- Administration: Executive Committee meetings have continued to be held on-line, on Zoom, once a month
- Customer feedback: feedback from members and clubs is at the heart of EC decision making; valuable information, comments and suggestions have been obtained through a formal survey of members, consultation with clubs, and more informal feedback throughout the year
- Communications: the SCBA website has been key to keeping our members up to date with developments, news and future events; in addition we are also using Facebook
- On-line bridge: on-line bridge has flourished at both county and club level
- Face to face bridge: at county level some face to face events were scheduled, but these had to be cancelled or held on-line, as a precaution against resurging strains of the virus; some but not all Suffolk clubs returned to face to face in the second half of the year, some also continuing with on-line bridge
- The changed bridge landscape has caused several clubs to decide to close. We say a fond and respectful farewell to Sudbury, Deben and Ipswich Hospitals
- We are extremely grateful to Sudbury B.C., who generously donated equipment to SCBA, and to other clubs, and funds
- We are extremely grateful to Deben B.C., who generously donated the proceeds from the wind up of the club to SCBA, a sum of £2964. These funds will be used to encourage more people in Suffolk to play bridge, in a series of initiatives which will be named the Deben Project. Work is well advanced on the first initiative; discussions are underway with libraries in Suffolk to provide a venue for teaching bridge

- Malcolm Carey became the first member of the Suffolk Committee to be awarded a prestigious Dimmie Fleming award by the EBU; Malcolm was one of the founders of the Suffolk Contract Bridge Association and has served on the Committee for over 40 years
- David Price, who passed away recently, received a Diamond award from the EBU for sustained success at National and International level
- SCBA thanks those Committee members who are stepping down from the Committee at the 2022 AGM for the service they have given: Peter Bushby, Malcolm Carey, Malcolm Pryor, Jill Tattersfield, Roger Tattersfield
- SCBA remains committed to providing links to and support for teachers in Suffolk
- SCBA has grown the number and experience levels of its team of directors able to run events on the BBO and RealBridge platforms
- SCBA contributes actively to cross-county and national fora on bridge
- Representative events - a number of successes are recorded in this report
- Congratulations to all the winners of 2021-22 SCBA competitions, a full list is provided in this report

SCBA 2021-22 – supporting facts and figures:

- Total players sessions in Suffolk, including both affiliated clubs and the county, rose by 3% from the previous year to c. 73% of the pre-Covid levels
- Many clubs only got back to bridge late in the year, or in some cases have still not
- For 5 clubs, and for the county, player sessions were above pre Covid levels, helped by on-line bridge
- At county level all competitions were held on-line
- The county knock outs had reduced but satisfactory entries
- The two Suffolk congresses were successful
- The Suffolk Sunday Pairs, a key component of SCBA bridge last year, saw declining attendance, and has now been discontinued, having served its purpose
- The Suffolk On-Line Teams League (started during the first lockdown) has continued to grow; the season being played currently has 6 divisions with 4 or 5 team in each division. New teams are always welcome
- Following a review of competitions by a sub-committee comprising Chris Rickard, Paul Rickard, Richard Evans and Jacks Morcombe a number of changes will take effect in 2022/3: Seniors Pairs, Married Pairs, Simultaneous Pairs to be discontinued. Decisions on a number of other events will be made in the light of 2022/3 attendance.
- There have been many initiatives for early and intermediate stage players at SCBA clubs, including on-line teaching, relaxed bridge, supervised play, seminars and mentoring. Congratulations to all clubs involved in such initiatives. Chris Green, the SCBA Development Officer, has been very active at his own club and is available to advise teachers and clubs: greencj06@hotmail.co.uk
- SCBA contributes actively to cross county and national fora: EBU run meetings of county chairs; EBU shareholder meetings; member of the Midland Counties Working Group (c. 12 counties meeting every month); regular dialogue with EBU board members and staff

SCBA 2021-22 – schedules:

- Full list of the winners of 2021-22 SCBA events
- Representative events – SCBA member successes 2021-22
- Entry statistics for a sample of SCBA competitions

Full list of the winners of 2021-22 SCBA events

Teams events

Championship Teams (Jim Pettit Cup): Final to be held on May 13th between Team Orton and Team Honess

Club Teams of Eight Knock Out (Abbeygate Shield): Ipswich & Kesgrave Barbarians: Mike Bone, Brian Ellul, Caroline Gemmell, Mark Honess, Andre Gray, John Pearson, Julie Milewski, Peter Milewski

Suffolk On-Line Teams League Winners (Malcolm Pryor Trophy): Team Hanson: Pauline Hanson, Con Hanson, Mike Bone, Brian Ellul, Eric Newman, Diane Whitley

County Congress Teams Winners (David Price Trophy):: Jason Hackett, John Sansom, Clive Owen, Nick Stevens

County Congress Teams: Best placed SCBA team 2nd: Caroline Gemmell, Mark Honess, Andre Gray, John Pearson

EABW Swiss Teams Winners: Steve Dannell, Paul Darby, Gabriel Ip, Frank To

EABW Swiss Teams: Best placed SCBA team: 17th=: Peter Bushby, Norbert Voelker, Jeff Orton, Michael Sherer

Championship Teams Plate: not yet concluded

Not held: Summer League; Winter League; Club Teams of Four (Thornway Cup); Club Teams of Eight; Club Teams of Eight Knock Out Plate

Pairs events

Championship Pairs (Alexander Cup): Eric Newman, Diane Whitley

Sunday Pairs (Bushby-Morcombe Trophy): Mark Honess, Caroline Gemmell

AGM Pairs: Mark Honess, Caroline Gemmell

County Congress Pairs: A final, best placed SCBA pair (7th): David Morran, Jeff Orton; A final winners (Committee Cup): Stephen Fordham, Nevena Senior; B final winners (Markwell Cup): Fowzi Baroukh, Joe Eskinazi; Open Final winners (Coastal Council Shield): Con Hanson, Pauline Hanson

EABW Swiss Pairs Winners: Nick Sandquist, Natalie Sashou

Autumn Pairs: Mens' Pairs (John Gudge Trophy): Bill Tweddell, John Wilmott; Mixed Pairs (Ringer Cup): Eric Newman, Diane Whitley; Ladies Bowl: Jayne Hunnable, Susan Nisbett; Married Couples Pairs (Lang Cup): John Gan, May Li

Bah Humbug: Rick Hanley, Michael Sherer

Not held: Seniors Pairs; Veterans Pairs; Mid Anglia Pairs; Bridge with Lunch;

Representative events

SCBA entered teams into various inter-county events including the Tollemache

Malcolm Pryor was selected to represent England in the Senior Camrose (Teltscher Trophy)

Entry statistics for a sample of SCBA events

SCBA Table Numbers 2017-2022

Figures show number of tables in play

Event	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Mid Anglia Pairs		20*	16	15	17	14
Club To4		12*	----	12	14	----
AGM Pairs		10*	15*	12	12	10
EABW Pairs		22*c/	22	24	----	25
EABW Teams		30*c/	13	21	----	24
Bridge w/ Lunch		----	----	12	10	9
Seniors Pairs		----	16*	23	11	12
Autumn Pairs		12*	22*	17	13 a/	22 b/
Congress Pairs		37*d/	26*	27	31	33
Congress Teams		22*d/	18*	25	28	31
Club To8		20*	28*	26	24	24
Championship Teams		13*	20*	14	12	14
Bah Humbug		11*	21*	20	----	----

* Played Online

a/ Mixed & Married Pairs only

b/ Two events, Mixed Pairs and Ladies' & Men's Pairs

c/ 7 Suffolk Pairs & 4 Suffolk Teams

d/ 18 Suffolk Pairs & 11 Suffolk Teams

---- Event not held