



Surrey County Bridge Association

Newsletter #20 December 2015

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President's Introduction

Since the last newsletter we can now see the new web site for SCBA. We are now reporting the results of our competitions on the same day as the event. In addition the website has other new features, the Diary of a Palooka is one amusing item and we are advertising other significant events held at Surrey clubs and nearby counties, so please check the site regularly for the latest news.

The September Sim Pairs raised over £3300 for the selected charity and the September green pointed Guildford events were well attended on both days.

November saw the Surrey Team win their heat and qualify for the Tollemache final in February 2016. There were 4 groups of 9 Counties in each group and the top two Counties from each group play in an 8 team final over 2 days.

The Chairmans lunch in November was well attended by the Chairman or representatives of 32 out of the 47 Affiliated clubs in Surrey as well as the committee members. Some of the committee spoke briefly about the future of Bridge in Surrey and the ideas being put in place to promote Bridge in the County. We have recently carried out an online Members Survey, a summary of the results can be seen below but in addition as part of the survey many people took the trouble to provide extensive comments and we are currently reviewing these.

I would like to thank Bomi Kavarana, who has been Surrey's Youth Officer for 18 years and who has, as his legacy, created and sustained the best County Schools competition in the UK. We wish Bomi a wonderful retirement.

I wish you all a happy Xmas and a successful Bridge new year, and invite you to enter and look forward to seeing you at the **SCBA Mixed Pairs**.

Charles Chisnall

President

The 2016 calendar

December 2015			
27 Sun	14.00	EBU Really Easy Afternoon	Richmond
January 2016			
10 Sun	13:00	SCBA Affiliated Clubs Teams of 8	Richmond Director: Neil Morley/Miranda Churchill
24 Sun	13:00	SCBA Mixed Pairs	Oxshott Director: Miranda Churchill
February 2016			
5 Fri	15.00	Surrey Schools Bridge Event	St. Pauls Boys School, Barnes Director: Trevor Hobson
7 Sun	13.30	Richmond Blue Pointed Swiss Pairs	Richmond
14 Sun	Varies	Surrey Simultaneous Pairs - Mon 15th to Fri 19th	Clubs
21 Sun	13:00	SCBA Ladies Pairs	Oxshott Director: Steve Foster
	13:00	SCBA Mens Pairs	Oxshott Director: Steve Foster
March 2016			
20 Sun	13.30	Bourne Blue Pointed Swiss Pairs	Bourne Club, Farnham
April 2016			
3 Sun	13:00	SCBA County Pairs Cup & Plate	Oxshott Director: Neil Morley/Miranda Churchill
May 2016			
1 Sun	13:00	Princess Alice Hospice Swiss Teams	Esher
8 Sun	13:00	SCBA Mary Edwards Cup	Wimbledon Director: Miranda Churchill
15 Sun	TBA	Wimbledon Blue Pointed Swiss Pairs	Wimbledon

Surrey and Novice League Finals – Free Entry

The finals of Surrey League Divisions 2, 3 & 4 and the final of the Novice League will be held at Oxshott on Sunday 5 June 2016. Full details are available on our website. Having reviewed the financial position of the competition it has been decided that there will be no charge for teams entering the final. The usual rules for qualifying for the final will continue to be applied.

Hall of fame so far

▲ 2015 / 2016

Competition	Winners
Affiliated Clubs Teams of 8	
Club Chairman's Lunch - By Invitation	Margaret Bradshaw & Ian Lewis (EW) and Jane Nind & Douglas Wright (NS)
Club Pairs Challenge Final	Anil Bhandari & Graham Cunningham
County Pairs Cup	
County Pairs Plate	
Dorin Salver Day 1 Monday	Alan Cadge & Tim Warren (Overall Winners)
Dorin Salver Day 2 Tuesday	Roger Routledge & Rebecca Snelling
Dorin Salver Day 3 Wednesday	Elizabeth Taylor & Sheila Bean
Dorin Salver Day 4 Thursday	Alan Webber & Mick Edwards
Dorin Salver Day 5 Friday	Christine Morgan & Allan Pratt
Ladies Pairs	
Lady Rose Cup & Plate	
Mary Edwards Cup	
Mens Pairs	
Mixed Pairs	
Novice League Final	
Seniors Pairs	John McKimmie & Nigel Barnes
Summer Swiss Pairs (Aug BH)	Graham & Berry Hedley
Surrey Green Pointed Swiss Pairs	Michael Prior & Mike Hampton, Krzystof Ginda & Mark Hooper (Joint winners)
Surrey Green Pointed Swiss Teams	Ingar Hansen, Peter Lee, Paula Leslie & Mike Scotlock
Surrey League Division 1	
Surrey League Final Division 2	
Surrey League Final Division 3	
Surrey League Final Division 4	
Surrey Sim Pairs Feb Day 1 Monday	
Surrey Sim Pairs Feb Day 2 Tuesday	
Surrey Sim Pairs Feb Day 3 Wednesday	
Surrey Sim Pairs Feb Day 4 Thursday	
Surrey Sim Pairs Feb Day 5 Friday	
Victor Ludorum	
Wanborough Cup	

Surrey September Simultaneous Pairs

Out of the 47 affiliated clubs in Surrey 34 clubs took part in our Simultaneous Pairs event last September. Several clubs entered 2 and even 3 times in the week and quite a few contributed more than the £2 per head table money. In fact one club gave us more than 2 ½ times what we expected to receive from them. As a result we were able to contribute nearly £3,400 to the Banstead Rehabilitation Centre. So it is a big thank you to all of you that supported this event.

Our next Charity Simultaneous Pairs event will take place in the week of 15 to 19 February 2016. The charity to be supported by this event is the Woking and Sam Beare Hospices, one of many worthwhile local charities we have supported over the years. You can find more details of this charity here:

<http://www.wsbhospices.co.uk>

Each day of the event the pair with the highest percentage score in the combined results will receive a prize of £20 and free entry to our County Pairs event in April 2016, so please encourage your club to participate.

Entries can now be made online or by contacting Trevor Hobson at: trevor_hobson@hotmail.com

Member and Club Development

Would you like to improve your bridge and help your club to develop new players? Why not attend a teaching course especially devised for club development.

Available courses

Aylesbury Monday 11th & Tuesday 12th April 2016

Wimbledon Bridge Club Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th June 2016



If teaching is not your forte, would you like to help your club to promote bridge and recruit new members? Why not discuss your thoughts with Douglas Wright 07801 989630 douglaswright@3countiesbridge.com who may assist you with Club Development.

Planned meeting of interested Club Development Officers

Bourne Club 10.30am Sunday 17th April 2016

To help membership recruitment in your club, English Bridge Education & Development is now running an important teacher training initiative to help all bridge clubs to 'grow their own' membership through an integrated teaching programme.

The purpose of this course is to provide basic training for club members who are prepared to offer a teaching programme at their club. This needs to be as part of programme to which the whole club is committed and which is designed to attract new members into bridge and then nurture their development within the world of duplicate play.

The key to a successful club teaching programme lies with evolving a whole year group from classroom to club room in no more than a year. Players should be integrated into the club as early as possible through a programme of teaching, supervised play, "no fear" duplicates and above all by providing an atmosphere of encouragement and welcome.

How to nominate someone

The cost of this course is currently £106. The secretary of the club books places on these courses.

If someone from your club would like to attend one of these courses, please contact Lisa at EBED on 01296 317217 or email her lisa@ebu.co.uk

Concessions for EBU Affiliated Clubs

The EBU actively supports this programme by offering one free teacher training session to each affiliated club within any 24 month period.

Available courses

Aylesbury Monday 11th & Tuesday 12th April 2016

Wimbledon Bridge Club Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th June 2016

For updates on courses check

<http://www.ebu.co.uk/education/club-teacher-training>

Youth News

Tim Warren is taking over from Bomi Kavarana as Surrey's Youth Officer. Initially, the main focus will be on encouraging schools to set up Minibridge clubs, and for this to be successful we'll need Minibridge teachers. Minibridge is a simplified form of the game in which you learn how to play the cards, without having to worry about the bidding.

Would you like to teach Minibridge in a local school? Perhaps you have a child or grandchild who's at the school? You don't need to be a great bridge player, you just need to want to help youngsters to take up this wonderful game of ours – the main qualification is enthusiasm. Ideally, if you have a friend or two who would also like to help, you might share the teaching, but whether there's one of you or more, let Tim know.

We're holding our first Minibridge teach-the-teachers session at Wimbledon BC on Sunday 31 January 2016. You can book the course online at www.wimbledonbridgeclub.co.uk (see under 'Book Events' or 'Learn to Teach Minibridge' on the right. If Wimbledon's too far, or you can't make the date, contact Tim and we might be able to set up a course nearer to you.

Even if you don't want to teach, let us know if you have a link with a local school, especially a secondary one. Perhaps you might know a teacher there? We're looking for 'ways into' schools: unsolicited letters are very unlikely to achieve anything, and personal contact would be much better.

You can get in touch with Tim on Tim@corbiere.globalnet.co.uk or 01276 857166.

The 2016 Surrey Schools Bridge Event will be held again at St Paul's Boys School in Barnes at 3pm on Friday, 5th February. Details will be sent out to participating Surrey schools in early January. Trevor Hobson has kindly agreed to be tournament director/scorer.

Members survey 2015 - results

Report on 2015 SCBA Members' Survey

We have had exactly 200 responses to our members' survey (although some of the respondents did not answer all of the questions). More than 80% of respondents play bridge at least twice a week, so we have access to the views of enthusiastic players. 53% of respondents did not participate in any SCBA events last season.

I have filtered the results to look at each category separately. For example, it is not worthwhile changing the format of our events for people who have little interest in participating in our events whatever their format!

Length of SCBA Competitions

We asked our members what length our competitions should be. Of those who currently participate in SCBA events:

- 29 prefer two--session events (about 48 boards)
- 29 prefer extended single session (e.g. 32 boards) events
- 15 prefer single session
- 17 have no preference

The length of many SCBA events was reduced to 'extended single session' a few years ago, but the survey shows that there is still equal demand for two-session events.

Timing of SCBA Competitions

We asked our members when our competitions should be held. Of those who don't participate in SCBA events, few cited 'wrong day of the week' as a reason for not participating. Of those who do currently participate in SCBA events:

- 31 prefer Sunday
- 8 prefer Saturday
- 11 either weekend day
- 11 prefer midweek
- 30 have no preference

So the survey results show that there is a general preference for playing on Sundays, suggesting that we are right to hold most of our events on that day of the week.

We also asked our members about the starting time of SCBA events. Of those who do don't participate in SCBA events, few cited 'wrong start time' as a reason for not participating. Of those who do currently participate in SCBA events:

- 26 prefer current start time (1pm)
- 24 would prefer an earlier start time
- 3 would prefer a later start time
- 38 had no strong preference

A significant minority would prefer to start earlier (although we didn't ask them how much earlier!), but there is still (slightly) more support for the current start time of 1pm.

We asked our members about provision of food at SCBA events, explaining that tea and coffee are available anyway. Of those who do currently participate in SCBA events:

- 13 thought plated teas should be provided
- 27 thought food should be available at the venue for players to purchase
- 28 thought food should not be provided, players should bring their own food if required

These replies suggest that whilst it is impossible to please everybody, the Competitions Subcommittee was correct to discontinue the provision of plated teas. Of course, it would be nice if food were available to purchase for those who want to, but the viability of this option depends on the particular venue being used.

Suggestions for Improvements

We asked our members to state what they like about our events and to suggest what we could do to improve them. We also asked those who do not play in SCBA events to explain why. The answers varied considerably (all responses can be seen in the pdf).

Quite a few people cited improving attendance at events (this is a vicious circle if people don't think that the events are not big enough to be worth entering, they don't enter themselves, helping to contribute to the events not being big enough). It would perhaps be better to hold fewer events so that the limited marketing resources available to SCBA could be concentrated on the events actually held.

Some suggested more green point events, not appreciating the restrictions that are imposed on us in that regard.

Some people mentioned venues, but of course they didn't all prefer the same venue. A few people were not happy with the chairs at certain venues.

Parking was mentioned a few times; indeed this might explain in part why Sunday was the day preferred by more people.

Jeffrey Allerton October 2015

Surrey Qualifies for Tollemache Final

The Surrey Tollemache team of Peter Lee & Mike Scoltock, Graham C Osborne & Frances Hinden, Paula Leslie & Jeffrey Allerton, Ian Swanson & Ken Ford, npc Richard Millard has qualified in some style for the final in February. Surrey finished the qualifier weekend at the top of Pool D with 114VPs, 14VPs ahead of second placed Berks & Bucks (who also qualify for the final) and a comfortable 25VPs ahead of third placed Derbyshire. The qualifiers from the other Pools were Kent, London, Manchester, Yorkshire, Middlesex and Worcestershire.

The Tollemache is teams of 8 scoring so each team has two N/S and two E/W pairs playing each hand. The results are 'cross-imped', i.e. each N/S gets to score up with both sets of E/W teammates, so there are four comparisons on each board. This can lead to some big swings. For example, on one board both E/W Surrey pairs bid to a good 6♣ contract which could not be defeated, whilst both Essex pairs languished in 3NT. That was four 12 IMP swings on one board, so 48IMPs to Surrey.

By contrast, I had to struggle to achieve a flat board on the following deal

		♠ K7643	
		♥ A10	
		♦ 104	
		♣ K872	
♠			♠
♥			♥
♦			♦
♣			♣
		♠ A5	
		♥ Q864	
		♦ 532	
		♣ AQ96	

Dealer E, Love All, Cross imps

E	S	W	N
P	1♣	2♦	2♠
P	2NT	P	P
P			

The bidding requires some explanation. Playing 5-card majors and a 14-16 1NT opening, 1♣ was the systemic opening bid. Against the potentially short 1♣ opening, E/W were playing an unusual, defence whereby a 1♦ overcall would be conventional (showing both majors) and they had to overcall 2♦ to show a hand suitable for a normal simple overcall in the suit. There's a good case for playing 2♠ by North as non-forcing in this position, but N/S had agreed to play it as forcing. Although South lacks a diamond stop, it's still better to show the balanced nature of the hand by rebidding 2NT and all alternatives seem worse. If North is strong enough to raise to game, she still has the option to check for alternative strains with 3♦.

West led ♦K against South's 2NT contract. East turned up with ♦A86 and the defence cashed five rounds of the suit. East discarded ♣10 (playing McKenny discards) and then ♠8. Declarer pitched two spades and a club from dummy, and two hearts from hand.

West now switched to ♠9 in this position with declarer requiring all of the remaining tricks:

	♠ K76	
	♥ A10	
	♦	
	♣ K87	
♠		♠
♥		♥
♦		♦
♣		♣
	♠ A5	
	♥ Q8	
	♦	
	♣ AQ96	

Assuming that the clubs come in for four tricks, declarer has seven tricks on top. The ♥K cannot realistically be singleton, so the only possible source of an eighth trick is a squeeze.

If West has ♥K and sole guard of spades then winning ♠A and running the clubs will work (as long as declarer reads the position). A better line is to cash ♥K (Vienna Coup) before running the club suit: now declarer does not have to read which suit West has bared; moreover, playing the cards in this order has the significant advantage that the squeeze also operates when East is the one with the sole spade guard and ♥K.

What can be inferred about the opponents' hands from the bidding and early play? Well, East has signalled for spades, then discarded one, so East seems to be left with QJ10(x), so is guarding that suit. Could East hold ♥K as well? Perhaps, but holding that card as well, wouldn't he have competed to at least 3♦? Also, West really needs that card to justify the overcall.

So the major suit guards seem to be divided and this line will not work. Can anything be done? Hang on: East can't hold ♥K but it's still possible that he could hold ♥J9 instead. Now it is possible to 'transfer the menace' in hearts from West to East. So win the spade switch with the ace and lead ♥Q from hand. West has to cover with ♥K, so win the ace and now run the clubs. In the 2-card ending South is on lead holding ♥8 and ♠5, dummy has ♠K7 and East has to surrender.

This was the full deal:

	♠ K7643	
	♥ A10	
	♦ 104	
	♣ K872	
♠ 92		♠ QJ108
♥ K75		♥ J932
♦ KQJ97		♦ A86
♣ J53		♣ 104
	♠ A5	
	♥ Q864	
	♦ 532	
	♣ AQ96	

At most other tables, N/S bid and made 2♠ (a weak NT opening will silence E/W), so the reward for making 2NT was just a flat board!
(by Jeffrey Allerton)

PS Interestingly, see www.bridgeguys.com/squeeze/transfer_squeeze.html for more info on this squeeze

Charity Events

CAFÉ BRIDGE Guildford Thursday 24th September 2015 raised over £3000 in aid of CRY and Shooting Star Chase.

As this event was so popular next year the date is Thursday 29th September 2016 we are planning to increase the restaurants to 15, and increase the number of pairs by another 30%. More details will follow later. If you wish to be put on the mailing list email Michele Perry Michele.k.perry@gmail.com



Cardiac Risk in the Young

and

Shooting Star Chase

Children's Hospice Care



Café Bridge in Teddington

Following on from the very successful Café bridge in Guildford this year, Jennifer Breeden is a running another in Teddington on Tuesday 2nd February 2016. It is already fully booked, but, if you would like more information or would like to go on the waiting list please contact bb@thebeaumonts.net or Jennifer.breeden1@googlemail.com to get your application form.

Club news, club events and other snippets

No Fear Bridge Club

A member of the No Fear Bridge Club, Deirdre Bates, has published her second book. It is called "Bridging the Gap" and is available on Amazon as a paperback or kindle edition. The setting for the book is a friendly, competitive bridge club and the fictional story centres on the lives of players in the final rounds of an annual competition. It is a well written book and bridge club members will find it both enjoyable and entertaining. Below is the summary taken from the back of the book:

"Jeffrey Sparkes - bachelor with a social conscience - doesn't want to save the world. He merely wants to bring some excitement into the lives of retirees whose minds might otherwise be seizing up from loneliness or boredom; to bring people together... fill gaps in people's lives. And to provide for his own security... to never again be destitute in life. His vehicle is Merville Bridge Club. Sadly for Jeffrey, reconciling MBC's two main characteristics - friendliness and the competitive spirit - can be fraught. It is especially so as tension mounts in the final rounds of the Kelsey Cup competition, 2010-2011. Because discord at the Club is inextricably entwined with domestic strife, particularly in the case of three married couples - Jeffrey's best players as it happens - Weatherbys, Swansons and Rushworths. So complex and passionate are the conflicts involved that Jeffrey - with his Club threatening to implode - is driven to

admit to his best friend, Helga, about the gaps in people's lives he is trying to bridge: 'All I seem to be doing is creating them.' How will it end? Who will be the winners and losers in Kelsey and in life?"

Guildford Golf Club

In October Guildford Golf Club held a successful golf/bridge day. In the morning the competition was the best two out of four scores followed by an excellent roast lunch. In the afternoon there was team bridge.

Below the Golf winners were: 'Wentford' (Julia Pearson, Henry Pearson, Nicky Morris and Peter Robinson)

The winners without Henry



Pearson who was taking
the photo

Bridge players during the



afternoon

Bridge winners were 'Ascot Aces' (Sarah Ward, Jennie Corfield, Mike Corfield and David Calcutt).
Overall winners were 'Wild Green Putters' (Trish Lynch, Robin Lynch, Gerald Searle and Julie Baldwin).

Next year this event will be held on August 8th

Richmond Bridge Club

Richmond are running a heat of the EBU's Really Easy Pairs on Sunday 27 December at 2.00 pm.
This is a relaxed duplicate pairs event for those with less experience.

This event is aimed at those with no experience of green-point events, and such players are probably below the rank of Master and lower than a Jack on the NGS. They should be comfortable playing unassisted in a 'club' environment, and it is intended as an introduction to 'tournament bridge'. The results will be stratified based on NGS grading with prizes for the overall winners, and Blue Points awarded based on the stratified results. In addition the same hands will be played at other locations round the country, with the competition scored across all venues. Please enter in advance by contacting Peter Jordan peter@ebu.co.uk or on 01296 317203.

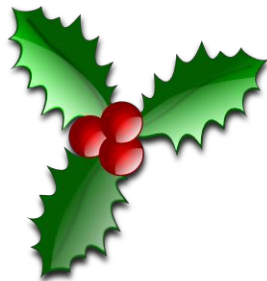
There will be Blue Pointed Swiss Pairs on Sunday 7th February 1.30pm

On March 3rd 7.00pm there will be a Seminar by Andrew Robson.



Really Easy Afternoon

Part of the Year End Congress



A duplicate pairs to introduce 'tournament bridge' to less experienced players

Sunday 27th December 2015*

♥ Players should be comfortable playing unassisted in a 'club' environment, but have limited playing experience. They should be below the rank of 'Master' and lower than Jack on NGS.

♣ Open to EBU members and non-members.
£8 per person (£12 for non-members).

♦ Prizes will be awarded to the overall winners.
Blue Points will be awarded based on stratified results.

♠ **Royal National Hotel, 38-51 Bedford Way, London, WC1H 0DG**
Near Russell Square tube station

The hands will also be played at other locations, including:
Richmond BC, Brierfield BC, Plymouth BC & First Class Bridge Academy in Billericay
with the event scored across all venues.

♥ Send in or telephone your entry to Peter or Dawn in the Competitions Department at English Bridge Union, Broadfields, Bicester Road, Aylesbury, HP19 8AZ
Tel: **01296 317203/219** ▪ fax: **01296 317220** ▪ e-mail: comps@ebu.co.uk

* - The start times are: London - 3:30pm; Richmond – 2pm, Brierfield – 2pm; Billericay – 2:30pm, Plymouth – 1pm

Teachers

Learning Weekends with 3 Counties Bridge

Declarer Play 18 / 19th June 2016 for all Duplicate Bridge Players who wish to win the last vital tricks to win a club Competition or County Competition

International Player and Professional Teacher Laura Porro teams up with Douglas Wright to cover the fascinating topics of:

- session 1: counting opponents shapes
- session 2: how suits breaks combine and affect each other
- session 3: endplays
- session 4: endplays
- session 5: simple squeeze
- session 6: vienna coup

For registering your interest email douglaswright@3countiesbridge.com

Further Weekends on Defender Play and Competitive Bidding are held for players with 3 to 5 years playing experience.

Other weekends for Learning Bridge for players with 0 – 2 years experience are also held.

The next newsletter

The next newsletter will be in March 2016. News, views and interesting hands, what is happening at your club – please send them to me

Meanwhile we wish you all a very happy Christmas and good bridging in 2016.