



Surrey County Bridge Association

Newsletter # 38 – May 2020

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President's Introduction

Tim Green

While we have been prevented from enjoying conventional bridge, many of us have found that the electronic version is an acceptable substitute, although I'm looking forward to the time when we can play at a bridge table again. SCBA has been working hard to find ways of providing alternatives to the now proliferating club-led solutions for online competition. Your County Association has pioneered a very successful online charity simultaneous pairs event, which you can read more about below. We are also looking at ways of providing something approximating to our normal summer competitions, but there are some technical issues to be resolved first.

It looks as if it is going to be a while before we get back to regular play, so stay safe in the meantime.

Chairman's Note

Trevor Hobson

It appears likely that if we want to play bridge in the foreseeable future, the only way we can do that is online. There are a number of websites that fill the gap in our need for a game of bridge. It only takes a few minutes to become familiar with these sites and to then start enjoying them. However, you will find that you are playing bridge with someone from anywhere in the world.

Many clubs have started their own online clubs on one or other of the bridge sites available. These provide you with the intimacy of playing bridge with people with whom you played in the old world. Most sites also allow you to have some level of communications on the table, so you can 'chat' to people from your recent past.

Other clubs may be struggling to set up online clubs. We at SCBA have some ability to help clubs, or group of clubs, set up an online presence. We have communicated that offer to the principal contacts at the various Surrey clubs.

If your club has not yet got an online presence, you should contact the club committee. It may be that they need your encouragement or, possibly, your help. If your club is unable to organise its own online events, then don't worry: there are other ways to play bridge online.

To help you find online bridge games, our website manager has created a page detailing the days of the week and times of play of the various Surrey online bridge clubs. You can access this page by clicking [here](#).

If you are interested in trying online bridge, Bridge Base Online (BBO) is exceedingly easy to use and is free. Since BBO upgraded their systems on 11th May, there has been a marked improvement in speed and performance. Please also see the section, four below, which provides useful videos to help you with using BBO.

Please read on for interesting news of bridge events SCBA has in the pipeline for you.

Forthcoming Calendar

We are consulting and forming a strategy for various competitions. Information will be posted on Surrey County Bridge Association website [click here](#).

We encourage teams in the Surrey League and Lady Rose to complete their matches online, if possible.

For now, we request members book the following dates:

Tue 2 June, 10am	}	Training sessions to get you familiar with Bridge Base Online (BBO). Please see article below "Why Play Online? An Invitation to a Taster Duplicate". The related online taster event starts on Wed 10 June 10am.
Wed 3 June 2pm		
Tue 9 June 10am		

Wed 10 June 10am - [Surrey Online Taster Duplicate](#).

Sat 20 June 1:30pm – **County Pairs event** – further details in the "Stop Press – Diary Dates" section below and on our [website](#).

Wed 24 June 10am – **NGS 7 and under - duplicate bridge**. More details to follow on our [website](#).

Surrey Charity Online Sims

As many of you will be aware, SCBA recently organised a Simultaneous Pairs (Sims) event over five days. This event was to raise money for our NHS. Over 1,000 people played during the week and several played more than once. As a result £7,350 has been sent to "NHS Charities Together" (for charity website, click [here](#)).

What started out as a bit of an experiment in Surrey quickly expanded across the UK and even beyond. Some clubs ran their own online session but many people with no access to those clubs joined the Surrey event individually.

Just after the lockdown had taken effect in early April, the Surrey committee was approached by Tony Cherrett, the proprietor of Caterham BC, who suggested that we run a charity Sims event. After several Zoom meetings and a lot of emails the event was launched via an email to Surrey members.

This is an amazing achievement in such a short time, and thanks are due to so many, including (in alphabetical order):

- Tony Cherrett whose suggestion it was, and who ran two sessions.
- EBU who were extremely supportive and mentioned it on their website and emailed all English counties.
- Trevor Hobson, SCBA Chairman, who spent day and night on this for a three week period. Apparently his grandchildren thought he'd broken lockdown and gone AWOL. (Editor's note: I snuck this in without the boss seeing.)
- John Lemmey, SCBA Webmaster, for his technical expertise and concocting a fantastic spreadsheet to match the names of people who played with their entry fees.
- Shirley Pritchard, SCBA Competitions Secretary, who provided her expertise and constant calm, considered and methodical input and effort.

We are also grateful to the following clubs for running sessions:

- Besses O'th Barn (1 session).
- Caterham (5 sessions). They also provided a team of excellent Directors whose experience ensured each event was professionally run, and above all, was an enjoyable experience.

- First Class (1 session).
- Hurlingham (1 session).
- Kendal (2 sessions).
- Morpeth (1 session).
- Richmond (2 sessions).
- South Bucks (1 session).

The consolidated results have been sent to the EBU resulting in participating pairs being awarded almost 41,000 master points, total awards to individuals of almost 82,000! For a full list of the results for each of the five days, please click the relevant day on our home page (click [here](#)). Special congratulations to David Beck and Glyn Meredith who each collected over 1,000 master points.

There were many lessons learned for running an event online. The SCBA Committee is very happy to share its experiences and lessons with any member club that wishes to run a similar event.

The event was very well received – we had lots of compliments, and Julian Pottage mentioned it in his Daily Telegraph column. Based on feedback received, participants seem to have very much enjoyed the event. The team were all extremely grateful for your words of thanks and encouragement during the week. Those comments were much appreciated, especially by those slaving over a hot computer into the early hours of every morning.

Surrey have now set their own online competitions bar quite high, but will be running further online competitions, as it is unlikely that face-to-face competitions will be possible for at least a few more months. As this is all a new world for all of us, we are not yet able to announce the dates of these competitions – we will let you know, by email, as soon as we have.

The final thanks must go to those of you who played during the week. You achieved a great result for the NHS. We very much you all had fun in the process!

All in a Good Cause

Tim Warren

Playing in the Surrey NHS Sims competition recently to raise money for **NHS Charities Together**, I was South in the diagram below. Our opening bids of two of a major are Lucas Twos (also called Muiderberg Twos), showing a weak hand of 6-10 pts with five of that suit, and four or more of an unspecified minor. Partner can enquire with 2NT or, on a poor hand with no tolerance for the major but with something in both minors, bid 3♣ 'pass or correct'.

We've found Lucas Twos a useful weapon. But with any weak bid you have to be prepared for the occasional drubbing...

♠ Q J 7 6 5		
♥ 9		
♦ 8 6 4 3		
♣ J 7 5		
♠ 9 8 3	♠ A K 10 2	
♥ A Q 10 7	♥ 8 4 3	Dealer S
♦ A Q J 5	♦ K	Game All
♣ 9 6	♣ A K 8 4 3	
	♠ 4	
	♥ K J 6 5 2	
	♦ 10 9 7 2	
	♣ Q 10 2	

W	N	E	S
-	-	-	2♥
P	3♣	P	3♦
P	P	X	(all P)

On West's lead of ♠9, East took ♠K, ♣AK and ♦K, before switching to a heart. West won this and drew trumps. I ended up with two tricks, for seven off, doubled, vulnerable. In case you haven't visited these rarified heights before, that's -2,000. Surprisingly, that was some way below average (OK, a complete bottom).

In over 50 years of playing bridge, I don't think I've ever gone off 2,000. It could have been worse – with perfect defence, the opponents could have taken all 13 tricks, for -2,600.

Still, it was in a good cause. Our opponents didn't crow; indeed, they apologised. It was that kind of event.

With traditional bridge out of action for the foreseeable future, your club may already be canvassing your views about playing online. However, not all clubs have the resources to run their own online events, and within SCBA we're working hard to meet members' needs and requests.

Our efforts have four main strands. We'll be running:

1. **Flagship annual pairs events** such as the Surrey County Pairs: these will carry EBU master points and count towards NGS, but we don't expect to provide money prizes.
2. **Monthly weekend pairs events**: again with master points and counting towards NGS.
3. **Weekday pairs evenings**: we're not expecting these to have master points or count towards NGS.
4. **'Introduction to Online Bridge' sessions**: very informal, aimed at those who've never played online before, and using Zoom to talk people through what to do.

We are looking at practical ways of running our normal teams leagues and Lady Rose teams knock out competitions but priority at the moment are the activities listed above.

Strands 2 and 3 will be restricted to Surrey members. For the evening events, we'll be trying to make it more local-to-you than just Surrey, so that you'll be more likely to know a good proportion of the other players.

Strand 4 is there because, while playing online is easy once you've got going, we realise the leap may seem a daunting one. See the next section, but we'll also look to identify online bridge champions, who will be willing to act as friendly mentors for others in their club or area.

More information on all this will shortly follow by email, and be advertised on the website.

Stop Press – Diary Dates

Surrey County Bridge Association has just been approved as a virtual bridge club. This is the first step to us being able to offer you sessions that will earn you EBU master points and be eligible for your NGS.

The first two sessions we will be holding will be:

Sat 20 June – County Pairs event – more details to follow, on our [website](#).

Wed 24 June 10am – NGS 7 and under - duplicate bridge. More details to follow, on our [website](#).

There will be more events to come, so please keep an eye on our [website](#)!

SURREY COUNTY PAIRS

Surrey are running their first lockdown County pairs event on Saturday 20th June at 1.30pm.

The cost will be \$5 per player, and entry is only via the Surrey website (details will be posted there in the next few days). It is essential that we have your BBO user name and EBU number with your entry.

Entry is as a pair, but if you are entering on behalf of your partner you need to ensure you have the correct details for them.

BBO\$ can be purchased in advance of the event from the BBO website.

Why Play Online? An Invitation to a Taster Duplicate

It is understandable that many of us may not want to play online - there is a loss of personal interaction and it seems less sociable especially since we could be playing against 'strangers'.

However, since we are not going to be playing in person for quite a while, it is possible to play with your favourite partners in a very sociable online setup - whether playing in groups of 4 at a table, where you can chat away and take your time, as well as a multitude of duplicate games that you can join - in an online duplicate

game within your club, if your club has set itself up as a Virtual Club, and if you prefer, at a Surrey game - where we recognise that players want to play with and against people they know.

Any change or new setup has pros and cons - and of course, not seeing each other face-to-face and perhaps having a drink together after, is a big loss. However, there are many advantages:

- You can **play from the comfort of your sofa**, with a glass of G&T to hand and remain in your jim jams if you wish!
- Whether you are an **early riser or an insomniac, there are huge number of online duplicates** you can play, with and against UK players or just join a **casual / friendly table**
- **Online games tend to be shorter** - 12 board games are the most common, and some longer games of 18 or 21 boards.
- The computer screen allows you to **see the cards clearly** and somehow, many players' experience is that they seem to be able to concentrate better when playing online
- You can **chat to your partner** after each round **and to the table** throughout play, which mimics real life interaction
- Also good news....you **won't see you partner's body language** if they hate your bid or you can express irritation and they won't hear you!

Before you know it, you have become an online Bridge addict and are enjoying the game just (nearly!) as much you did before...

As a Bridge teacher, I realise that the leap to online play can be daunting, mainly because technology seems to be the hurdle, and you may want to be shown / guided through it step-but step, and have your questions answered as you go along.

To that end, we are running a BBO introduction session via a practice table and Zoom, followed by trying out a 12-board online duplicate, where you will be supported throughout. You will be taken through all the steps - from logging in, to joining a table with 3 others where you will see how to bid and play and where the online duplicates can be found. On a separate day, you can join an introductory 12-board duplicate.

We would like you to give it a chance...and if you would like to try it, then please register your interest on the [Surrey website](#) and select a **training session** that you can attend (**Dates: Tue 2 June 10am ; Wed 3 June 2pm ; Tue 9 June 10am**). Ask your friends and partners to also join you, but it is not essential to book with a partner

The cost will be £6 for a training session and the [introductory duplicate](#) session on **Wed 10 June at 10 am**.

Looking forward to seeing you online for one of these sessions!

Help Using BBO

The following youtube videos, created by Paul Gipson of Berwick Bridge Club, are a great guide to BBO:

Topic (click on text to take you to youtube)	Duration and comments
Login and account creation	2 mins; setting up an account is free and easy
The BBO Acol Club: Joining or creating a table, kibitzing, etc.	2½ mins
Friends, partners and on-screen text chatting	3 mins
Bidding and alerting	3 mins
Undoing a misclick	2 mins; note the video is a bit misleading, as it implies undoing just gets automatically accepted
Creating a private table just for friends	3 mins; he calls it a 'set game'
Registering for a tournament	2 mins
Setting up teams matches	3½ mins

Despite lockdown restrictions being eased gradually, it will be a long time before we can play Bridge together, face-to-face. However, the demand for online Bridge is increasing day by day, and in terms of clubs re-creating online duplicate sessions for their own members, the Bridge Base Online (BBO) platform is currently the best option.

EBU have recently worked with BBO to provide the facility for EBU Virtual Clubs - more information [here](#). This will allow clubs to run their games either using the services of an online EBU Director or getting one or more of their players trained up as online Directors and running the games themselves (who will then be given Director privileges via EBU). The short EBU document provides options for this and also details that 30% of each player's 'table fee' goes to BBO and 70% is credited to the club's account, from which P2P charges and Director fees will have to be paid.

A number of Surrey clubs are participating in this scheme – e.g. Caterham is an EBU affiliated club that runs its own sessions, but uploads results to EBU for MP awards and NGS calculation, Kenley BC ran their first session this week as did Yately and Hawley, and Camberley Bridge Clubs, and others are in the pipeline, getting training, in order to have an online EBU virtual club presence.

This option allows clubs to generate revenue and maintain links with their members and support their need to play Bridge somewhere, ideally with other club members or at least other Surrey members.

For clubs, there are a few things to think about regarding virtual clubs. Firstly, it is not essential to replicate the face-to-face schedule online – so if a club runs a regular game on a Tuesday evening, it is not necessary to run the game on the same day / time online. A suggestion is to canvass the membership's views on firstly whether they would be happy to play online (having been given some training) and if so, preferences for morning, afternoon or evening games (or give them some specific choices of days / times and see which are popular).

The second is that geography is not a factor – yes, club players may wish to play with and against players they know, but it is possible to extend that to say, Surrey players. So clubs can 'club together' to run joint sessions, thereby reducing overall Director costs. Camberley BC and Yateley and Hawley BC do exactly that. And finally, if there is some interest to play online but not sufficient numbers, then a club could suggest to their membership to participate in the sessions run by existing EBU virtual clubs that are happy to accept players from outside the club – and an arrangement can be agreed regarding income and cost sharing. Club players can, and many do, of course also play in one or more of the five daily games run by EBU – for which they need their EBU number to hand and also a credit on their BB\$ online account (which by the way is cheaper to credit via BBO website rather than the App).

There is the hurdle of encouraging players to dip their toes into online games – you can contact me for information / suggestions on how to 'onboard' players – this can be done by taking players through the process of creating a BBO User name and then providing training on BBO Teaching tables (with or without Zoom session in parallel), where they can get a chance to practise how to self-Alert bids (which is the way it is done on BBO – your partner does not see the Alert, but the opposition do), how to Claim, how to join a game, how to call Director, how to look at results ++

Gentle duplicate sessions and Supervised games can also be run by clubs that have a teaching programme – see section on Online Bridge Teaching below.

I would urge all clubs to ask, and even encourage, their members to play online – mainly because it is looking unlikely that we can do anything else until a vaccine is developed.

After the successful online SIMS that Surrey ran which raised more than £7,000 for NHS Charities, due to the tremendous support of players and clubs, further Surrey County Bridge events have been scheduled. In addition, the SCBA website lists virtual clubs and their session times for online duplicates – which gives players a wider range of options of when to play.

The current crisis means that online Bridge is going to become ever more popular.... Let's embrace this new world...

Bridge Teaching is also going online and EBED ran a number of sessions on how Teachers can best use online facilities to run lessons, which can be found [here](#).

Essentially, it is possible to teach online using Zoom or Webex or Youtube, and then set up tables on BBO with pre-loaded deals relating to the particular topic. Surrey Teachers who are interested in setting this up can look at the EBED videos first (if they weren't able to attend these sessions when they ran) and can contact me for any further information or guidance.

It is also possible to set up a gentle duplicate session for learners – this can include fewer boards, more time per board, and even have the facility for 'supervised' gentle duplicate where the 'Director' or a separate Teacher is called to a table to help with a bidding or play question. This is a great way to introduce learners to both duplicate and online sessions in one go!

In terms of supervised play, BBO is not the only option – Bridge Club Live (BCL) also offers this facility, and Douglas Wright has a lot of experience with BCL.

Teachers can plan ahead and advertise their courses on the SCBA website – there is certainly an appetite for online tutorials!

The Challenges of Teaching and Learning Online

Tony Cherrett

The necessary move to online bridge has caused me to have a complete rethink of my teaching methods. There is a big loss of personal connection but technology can help bridge that gap.

I deliver online sessions using a mixture of Zoom and Bridge Base Online. We have assisted play sessions using teaching tables and teams matches. There is opportunity for tailored coaching and commentary on play. No Fear Bridge also provides another medium, as it does in my normal teaching environment.

Below are a few thoughts on the differences:

Disadvantages

- **In a video conferencing environment only one person can speak at once.** In a normal class participants naturally help each other, this helps both parties as explaining to others reinforces learning. A conversation at each table is possible in a face to face environment.
- **Social connection.** Many people are interested in bridge to establish personal connections. It is possible to maintain connections online but much more difficult to establish them. I am struggling to set-up a beginners' bridge class online – I have over 20 people who want to learn in a face to face environment after the crisis is over.
- **Ability to sense if you have the room.** In a classroom environment if a point is not clear you can see this from people's expressions and body language. Participants can be encouraged to interject with a glance or gesture. This is almost impossible in a video conferencing setting.

Advantages

- **Ability to record.** You can record a class or event or match commentary then the participants can look at it again later. It also helps if anyone misses a session.
- **Session review.** As every bid and every card played is recorded it is easy to review a partnership's play of a hand and recommend improvements. Normally this is difficult as players may have a hazy memory of the hands. At Caterham BC we run hand reviews after each duplicate session – this is quite a social event.

I am also running one hour session reviews for one or two pairs at a time covering a complete session recently played.

- **Session commentary.** You can commentate on a session whilst playing. The audience can see only what the commentator sees so are faced with the same decisions. You can run through the bids and plays you are considering.

The audience for the sessions I have run so far are largely students who have just finished the beginning bridge course.

Whilst bidding or playing the cards everyone is muted. The hands can be discussed whilst the commentator is dummy or between rounds.

- **Match Commentary.** In an online environment it is easy to commentate on live matches online. You can bring the bidding and play into the perspective of the average player. It also allows a glimpse of the psychological cut and thrust at a more experienced level. Participants can ask questions and make suggestions. It is a fun and social experience.

The fact is that this online world will continue indefinitely, we have to embrace it and make the most of it. Any shortcomings should only be short term, as we discover ways to work around them. If anyone would like to see what we do at Caterham please contact me via the website.

Your SCBA Committee

Many thanks to all of you who responded to our request to volunteer as treasurer of SCBA. We had a number of strong candidates. It was so gratifying to see so many people step up to volunteer to help. After conversations with the candidates, the Committee is delighted to announce that it will recommend to the membership, at the next AGM, that John Gallagher be appointed to the position.

John brings with him a wealth of experiences of being treasurer of a club and a local community association as well as mentoring undergraduates working in industry during their gap year. Before that he was a senior Manufacturing Systems Manager for an International Food Company working in the UK and Switzerland. His volunteering works also led him to develop websites, email and online PayPal payments for club members and the public. One of the interesting facts about John is that he used to be a rugby player for Coventry and Wasps as well as a Morris Dancer. We've yet to ask him if that helped with the tussles and moves on bridge tables.

We all very much look forward to working with John in Surrey bridge.

Despite your committee now having two Morris Dancers; that is not a requirement of being part of, or helping with, SCBA. It should, however, make our post lockdown AGMs lively events...

Editor's note: Timbo has been busy this quarter and provided us with two Double Dummy Puzzles, if you like, a double Double Dummy.

A hand is said to be played double dummy if everyone can choose the cards they play with full knowledge of all four hands. For instance, declarer need never lose a finesse to a singleton King offside, because it's clear to all the Ace will drop the King.

If you're missing face-to-face bridge as much as I am, maybe puzzles will help, so this time I'm setting two. To encourage as many people as possible to have a go, the first one's quite Gentle, but the second is Tough, so I hope there'll be something for everyone. You're very welcome to enter both, but I'll make sure we have different winners.

In both cases, send your entries to me at TimigWarren@gmail.com by Monday 8 June. Names of all those submitting correct solutions will be put in a Morris hat and the winner selected randomly. The prize for each will be free entry to a Surrey event at Oxshott of the winner's choice, once they resume.

We trust Surrey members will solve the problems themselves, rather than using computers.

Puzzle #6 – GENTLE

	♠ K 10 8 4 ♥ 10 7 6 ♦ A Q 10 9 ♣ J 9	
♠ - ♥ 9 4 ♦ 8 7 6 5 4 3 ♣ K 6 5 4 3	Contract 6♠ by S Lead ♦ 8	♠ Q 9 7 6 ♥ Q 8 2 ♦ K J 2 ♣ 8 7 2
	♠ A J 5 3 2 ♥ A K J 5 3 ♦ - ♣ A Q 10	

You, South, arrive in 6♠ after West has shown both minors. How do you make it on the lead of ♦ 8?

This one's GENTLE. So, although entries from everyone will be warmly welcomed, we're limiting the prize for #6 to Surrey members of NGS rating Jack or below (it will help me if you include your NGS rating when you enter).

Like the March puzzle, the hand was sent to me by Alan Brown, and comes from a session at his local club, Yateley & Hawley. Once again, thanks very much to Alan for this.

Puzzle #7 - TOUGH

	♠ K 10 9 7 ♥ A Q 9 8 ♦ K Q 9 8 ♣ Q	
♠ J 6 4 2 ♥ K 10 7 5 ♦ A ♣ K 9 8 7	Contract 4♠ by S Lead ♥ 5	♠ Q ♥ J 6 4 2 ♦ J 10 5 4 3 2 ♣ A 4
	♠ A 8 5 3 ♥ 3 ♦ 7 6 ♣ J 10 6 5 3 2	

As South, how do you make 4♠ on the lead of ♥ 5?

I'm rating this one as TOUGH, and very much a marathon rather than a sprint. The prize for #7 is open to all Surrey members, whatever their NGS.

The hand comes from a social online session in April, with a small change. Thank you to John Manches, both for playing the hand (with me as dummy) and as always for acting as a sounding board in the analysis.

There aren't any fancy endplays involved, but there are *lots* of different options that have to be set out, and with some of those you've got to be very careful. You don't have to give the

detail on absolutely every possibility, but there are certain key things I'll need to see set out, including:

- How might the play develop when West gets in with ♦ A?
- How might the play develop when East gets in with ♣ A?
- What happens whenever trumps are led?

As this is pretty intricate, if you omit to mention something that I think is key, I will come back to you for more detail - I won't simply count it as wrong.

ATTITUDE SIGNALS - How low is 'low'?

Playing the traditional style of attitude signals we know that a high card is encouraging and a low card is discouraging. Let's try an example.

Board: 257 Dealer: East Vul: None Contract: 4♥ by East Lead: ♣K

East	South	West	North
1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

West ♠ KQ ♥ K86 ♦ AQT87 ♣ 652	♣ 7 ♣ 2 ♣ 3 ♣ K	South ♠ 9753 ♥ 42 ♦ 653 ♣ KQ94
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We are South and we probably need to find an attacking opening lead against this contract so we choose ♣K, even though leading from a sequence of two honours sometimes gives away a trick. North follows suit with ♣7, what should we lead next?

First we must decide whether the ♣7 is an encouraging or discouraging card. Is the seven high or low? To help us find out whether partner is intending to encourage or discourage clubs we need to look at the other club spot cards that we can see ('spot card' is the term for a card lower than the 10).

We realise that ♣7 (unusually) is a discouraging card because we can see all of the lower clubs. We therefore switches to spades, hoping that North can win and lead a club through declarer's ♣AJ. When this materialises and North also has ♦K, declarer has to go one down.

The full deal:

	North ♠ AJ864 ♥ 97 ♦ K92 ♣ T87	
West ♠ KQ ♥ K86 ♦ AQT87 ♣ 652		East ♠ T2 ♥ AQJT53 ♦ J4 ♣ AJ3
	South ♠ 9753 ♥ 42 ♦ 653 ♣ KQ94	

3 Counties Bridge Club

3 Counties Bridge Club is offering a free **Taster Session** to online bridge. These are suitable to all levels, from complete Beginners and for anyone who would like to learn and improve. If interested or for further details, please email [Douglas Wright](mailto:Douglas.Wright@3countiesbridgeclub.com)

The Club is also holding **online improver courses** as follows.

- Monday 7pm
- Tuesday 10am
- Tuesday 2pm
- Wednesday 10am
- Wednesday 7pm - Supervised Play
- Wednesday 7.30pm
- Thursday 2pm - Supervised Play
- Friday 10am

Further details on the club website – click [here](#).

If you are interested in any of the above courses, please [Register Online](#) or contact [Douglas](#).

Bourne Bridge Club (Farnham)

It has been very encouraging seeing our members take to playing online in these difficult times. We now have 43 members playing regularly at all times of the day in social rooms, the daily pairs rooms and the teams room and smiling, mostly, through adversity when the technology breaks down!

A highlight is the running of the Summer League online Teams competition. This competition, modelled on our very successful Winter League for Teams, has attracted 6 teams, each playing five 16-board matches and there will, of course, be a small prize at the end.

So we are trying. Not the same of course, our members miss the social interaction of Monday and Thursday evenings, but online is proving much better than nothing

We are very proud to support Helen Mitchell and Tony Philpott who are playing 100 bridge hands in a single day in aid of the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice. Please support them – see “Forthcoming Charitable Events” section below.

Richmond Bridge Club

Richmond Bridge Club run a Supervised Play session 4 times a week, at 10:30am on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays & Sundays.

This combines playing bridge with and against real players on BBO, together with a Zoom link with your partner, opponents and the teacher.

Our members are giving it great reviews.

The first step will be a 30-40 minute training session to get you familiar with the technology.

All enquiries welcome Manager@richmondbridgeclub.com

Forthcoming Charitable Events

100-hand Marathon Bridge Challenge

The well-known Farnham bridge partnership of Helen Mitchell and Tony Philpott are taking up the challenge of playing 100 bridge hands in a single day in aid of the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice.

Since the Coronavirus lockdown, all bridge clubs have been shut and the only place for hundreds of people to continue their hobby has been online. Over 200 members of clubs in the area have joined *Bridge Club Live*. However, the many fund-raising events normally organized by local bridge groups in aid of Hospice funds have had to be cancelled or deferred, so Tony and Helen have come up with the brilliant idea of staging their own personal fund-raising bridge marathon.

Their challenge will take place all day on Wednesday 27th May at www.bridgeclublive.com. Tony and Helen will aim to play 100 hands online in a single day!

Currently all of the upcoming Hospice events have been cancelled and many bridge events, community events and personal challenges such as marathons have been postponed. Hospice care continues but with additional measures in place to protect staff and patients. This includes PPE, social distancing, providing support such as counselling via telephone and very sadly limiting the people who can come into the Hospice. Needless to say this is a very difficult time for clinical staff who are unable to give or receive hugs at the moment.

Please sponsor Helen and Tony generously and be part of our bridge fraternity supporting the much-loved Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice in these special times of need. Visit the fundraising page (set up by Mike O'Donnell) to make a donation and send a message of support <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/100handsofbridge> .

(If you are a taxpayer, please do gift aid your donation, to maximise hospice funds.)

Pairs in support of Cancer Research UK

Friday 19th June - 2pm. Jenny Priestley's pairs in support of Cancer Research UK - this event, now in its 30th year, will take place on online on BBO for the first time, drawing participants from both sides of the English Channel. Book here: <https://brianbridge.net/cr2020/>.

Editor's Note

If you are not a member of SCBA but, have enjoyed reading our newsletter, then you can access this, previous and future editions on our website – please click [here](#).

Next Newsletter

Please [email](#) us news, views, interesting hands, and what is happening at your club. Similarly, please let us have any comments to any of this newsletter or any other bridge matter, please contact the Committee, through the website.