



Surrey County Bridge Association

Newsletter # 28 December 2017

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President's Introduction

In my capacity as a Committee member, I was pleased to be invited to join the Chairman's Lunch at Bookham last month. To the uninitiated, it may appear that this is a pleasant seasonal jolly for the great and good of the Surrey bridge milieu, with a few hands of bridge and a nice lunch. In fact, it is a very valuable opportunity for the Chairman and Committee to meet club representatives from around the county, and to discuss matters of current interest and importance. The aphorism about free lunches certainly applied as after the buffet, attendees were asked to join working groups to talk about several issues including the declining membership of many bridge clubs and the possibility of cooperation between clubs in teaching and development of new players. It also gave the Chairman the opportunity to ask if attendees could spread the word that the Surrey Committee would welcome additional members to help with various organisational matters. I found it really valuable to hear the views of the delegates I met over the bridge table and in my working group. Next year, please try to send someone from your club to help with our efforts to promote bridge in the county.

Tim Green

President SCBA

The 2018 Calendar

JANUARY 2018

Sun	14	13.00	Surrey Affiliated Club Teams of 8	Richmond
Sun	28	13.00	Surrey Mixed Pairs	Oxshott

FEBRUARY 2018

Sun	11	13.00	Richmond Blue Pointed Swiss Pairs	Richmond
Sun	18	13.00	Surrey Mens Pairs	Oxshott
			Surrey Ladies Pairs	Oxshott

MARCH 2018

Sun	25	13.30	Bourne Blue Pointed Swiss Pairs	Bourne, Farnham
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APRIL 2018

Sun	8	13.00	Surrey County Pairs Cup & Plate	Oxshott
Sun	22	13.00	Surrey Senior Pairs	Oxshott

MAY 2018

Mon	7	13.00	YHBC & Camberley Blue Pointed Swiss Pairs	Yateley
Sun	13	13.00	Surrey Mary Edwards Cup	Oxshott
Sun	20	Noon	Wimbledon Blue Pointed Swiss Pairs	Wimbledon

JUNE 2018

Sun	3	13.30	Richmond Blue Pointed Swiss Pairs	Richmond
Sun	10	13.00	Surrey League Finals	Oxshott
Sun	14	13.00	Surrey Wanborough Cup	Oxshott
Varies	25-29		Surrey Simultaneous Pairs	Clubs

For more information on events that Surrey County Bridge Association run [Click Here](#) or click on a link in the Calendar on the website. To enter an event either online using the [Event Hub](#), download an entry form, or contact the competitions secretary, Shirley Pritchard competitionsecretary.scba@bridgewebs.com

Hall of Fame so far

Competition	Winners
AGM Pairs	Maciej Pilecki and Stanley Herman
Wanborough Cup	Varda Derwig & Jack Goody, Tim Rees & Simon Foale
Mary Edwards	Peter Lee and Mike Scoltock
EBU Point-Board Teams	Frances Hinden, Graham Osborne, Jeffrey Allerton, Chris Jagger
Affiliated Clubs Teams of 8	RICHMOND - BLUE: Margaret Page & Patrick Bohan, C Lambe & John Balson, Dan O'Farrell & Maureen Dennison, Ting To & Corneliu Rimboiu
Club Chairmen's Lunch	Steve Irwin & David Elvin (Selsdon)
Club Pairs Challenge Final	Marion Hart & Kenneth Wilshire
Dorin Salver Day 1 Monday	(70.12%) - Malcolm Oddy & Bob Guille
Dorin Salver Day 2 Tuesday	(70.44%) - David Burch & Liz Dunjay
Dorin Salver Day 3 Wednesday	(68.66%) - Simon Whiteside & Maxine Julius
Dorin Salver Day 4 Thursday	(74.82%) - Alan Webber & Mick Edwards (Dorin Salver)
Dorin Salver Day 5 Friday	(71.41%) - Derek & Alison Gardner
Ladies Pairs	Michelle Lunqvist & Sandra Cape
Mens Pairs	Richard Granville & Graham Sadie
Mixed Pairs	Marion Hart & Bob Guille
Seniors Pairs	Steve Lock & Graham E Osborne
Surrey Green Pointed Swiss Pairs	Steve Preston & Andy Hughes
Surrey Green Pointed Swiss Teams	Ingar Hansen, Peter Lee, Paula Leslie & Mike Scoltock
Bank Holiday Blue Pointed Pairs	Michael Hampton & Michael Prior
Surrey Sim Pairs Feb Day 1 Monday	(69.01%) - Dip Dasgupta & Don Butt
Surrey Sim Pairs Feb Day 2 Tuesday	(65.12%) - Keith Oatway & Imelda Moore
Surrey Sim Pairs Feb Day 3 Wednesday	(66.85%) - Elaine & Ron Ewins
Surrey Sim Pairs Feb Day 4 Thursday	(70.91%) - Penny Webster-Smith & Sandra Cape
Surrey Sim Pairs Feb Day 5 Friday	(62.79%) - David & Connie Lofts

Chairman's Lunch 15 November

We had another successful Chairman's Lunch on 15 November with around 25 clubs being represented plus committee members. The lunchtime discussion was about cooperation as a way of arresting declining membership.

Some clubs have an active teaching programme for complete beginners, some have improver sections for players in the intermediate stage after lessons but before they are sufficiently confident for normal club play. Few clubs are large enough to do both of these and many clubs do neither.

There are some examples of clubs jointly organising charity and Blue Point events and there are examples of clubs sharing dealing machines and Bridgemates but there was a general feeling that more could be done in this area.

The trend in membership numbers is such that the long term existence of some clubs is unlikely. Some clubs have temporarily addressed the decline in numbers by advertising but clubs that do not have a reliable feed of new members, either through repeated advertising, providing lessons to beginners or through establishing cooperation with local bridge teachers or local clubs face a future of declining numbers and ultimate closure. It is important that clubs that wish to survive in the long term have a reliable supply of new members.

An initiative has been started in the Farnham area that has identified several formal and informal groups of bridge players. It is hoped that through mutual cooperation between these groups bridge playing in the area can be put on a sustainable footing.

The most appropriate way to address declining membership will differ from club to club and although the Surrey Committee has limited resources we are willing to offer guidance and help where we can.

Open invitation

The Surrey Committee has an open invitation for individuals to attend our committee meetings. The take up so far has been good and both the Committee and the individuals involved have found the experience useful. Anyone wishing to take up this invitation should contact the SCBA Secretary Gail Norman (secretary.scba@bridgewebs.com)

Club Visits

Members of the Surrey Committee would welcome the opportunity to visit your club either with a partner at a normal club session or without a partner at one of your committee meetings. We have received several invitations following the Chairman's lunch and. These will all be followed up in the New Year.

Help to the Committee

The Surrey Committee is constantly on the lookout for people to assist with its activities. This may be as little as helping put out tables and chairs at our events to more significant tasks such as coordinating this Newsletter, or managing our website. Membership of the Committee is not obligatory. If you feel you might be able to help us then please contact our chairman at: chairman.scba@bridgewebs.com

Advanced Training by Ian Pagan NGS Jack to King

Surrey and Ian Pagan have teamed up again and have organised a double session Seminar on:

"The proper use of doubles and redoubles"

Are you doubling as much as you should be? Find out about the proper use of negative doubles, protective doubles, responsive doubles, lightner doubles, support doubles, lead directing doubles, S.O.S. redoubles, Rosenkrantz redoubles and many more.

The Seminar is aimed at NGS Jack to King players. It is also aimed at players who may wish to enter the Metropolitan Cup and represent Surrey in the future.

The players will play 20 specifically developed hands under normal duplicate conditions, observed by Ian, who will then review the hands in the second session.

1pm to 6pm 20th May at Richmond Bridge Club – please put the date in your diary and book online in the New Year.

This bidding Seminar will be followed by a playing Seminar on “Building a picture of a Hand”, for the same level of player, NGS Jack to King.

For further details:

Communications Officer



Douglas Wright

Learning Weekends by Laura Porro NGS 8 to Jack

Balmer Lawn Learning Weekend, New Forest

23, 24 and 25 February 2018

Laura Porro & Douglas Wright invite you to a challenging weekend of bridge at Balmer Lawn, a classic Country House Hotel set in the very heart of the New Forest National Park. Your bridge will improve as Douglas & Laura host a series of seminars aimed at duplicate players, together with several opportunities to play bridge. Aimed at players with NGS 8 to Jack.

Friday 23 February

2pm Early Bird Afternoon Duplicate

8.00pm Duplicate Bridge



Saturday 24 February

10am – 12am Session one – Responder's rebid

Focus on responder's options, the most common bidding tools which are essential to set up a forcing auction at a low level. Find out more about opener's shape and strength and to place the final contract accurately. This session will include:

- Advanced use of fourth suit forcing
- Agreeing a trump suit in a forcing way

Free time to relax and explore – enjoy the New Forest or the hotel delights and leisure facilities.

3pm – 4pm System Surgery Session – Laura will be available to answer specific questions about your system, please bring your convention card along and Laura will give you suggestions on how to make your system more effective.

4pm – 6pm Session two – Minor suit slams

Bidding minor suit slams is a challenge, because most bidding systems are geared to find major suit fits effectively. This session will focus on:

- The strategic thinking behind deciding to explore a minor suit slam, in a forcing way
- What to do when using Blackwood/RKCB is not an option

8.00pm Duplicate Bridge

Sunday 25 February

10am – 12am Session three – Serious and non-serious slam tries

Cue bids are an essential tool of accurate slam bidding. A more advanced version of cue bids differentiates between serious and non-serious slam tries. This session focuses not only on the bidding technique, but also on nuanced hand evaluation:

- How the information unveiled by partner's bidding affects the playing potential
- How to assess the strength of one's hand in the bidding context

8pm Duplicate Bridge for those staying Sunday night

Please book online www.3countiesbridge.com or contact Douglas Wright on 07801 989630 with queries or email douglaswright@3countiesbridge.com

Club Players Seminars by Douglas Wright NGS 5 to 7

Polish Up your Play – A series of 6 Seminars on Wednesday and Thursday evenings during the Spring Term.

Commencing on:

Wednesday evening 17th January in Churt

Thursday evenings 11th January in Farnham

How to win those extra tricks, which will improve your scores.

For further information contact douglaswright@3countiesbridge.com

Bridge Hand (1)

Unblocks and Crocodiles (by Jeffrey Allerton)

Sometimes to avoid an endplay a defender needs to unblock an honour, so that partner can win a subsequent trick. On this hand I declared in a recent Crockford's Cup match both defenders had to be on their toes.

IMPs

Love All ♠ AJ109
 dealer ♥ A82
 East ♦ KQ95
 ♣ K5

♠ 63		♠ K752
♥ Q95		♥ KJ106
♦ 63		♦ J4
♣ Q98642		♣ AJ10

♠ Q84
 ♥ 743
 ♦ A10872
 ♣ 73

East	South	West	North	notes
1NT	Pass	2♣	Dbl	1NT = 12-14
3♣	3♠	Pass	4♠	2♣ = either minor
Pass	Pass	Pass		

In this auction there is a case for playing double as showing the values for doubling a 1NT opening, but it is perhaps more common for double to show spades. North had both options covered and then raised South's sporting 3♠ bid to game. This contract would have stood no chance on a club (or heart) lead, but West elected to start with a trump, won by East who played back another trump.

Declarer could now count nine tricks. His chance of a tenth appeared to be based on the position of the ♣A, but the bidding and play to date implied that East was heavy favourite to hold that card. Still, there was little declarer could do other than draw the remaining trumps and cash the diamond suit. East followed to the trumps, perforce, whilst West discarded two clubs easily enough. On the third round of diamonds, both declarers discarded rounded suit sixes, leaving:

IMPs
 Love All ♠
 dealer ♥ A82
 East ♦ 5
 ♣ K5



♠
 ♥ 743
 ♦ 82
 ♣ 7

Now East was starting to feel a little uncomfortable and could see visions of an endplay. So on the 4th diamond he relieved himself of ♥K whilst West let go of ♣8. Now for the last diamond: West hung on to his hearts, discarding yet another small club, dummy shed ♥2 whilst East discarded ♥10, leaving this 4-card end position:.

IMPs
 Love All ♠
 dealer ♥ A8
 East ♦
 ♣ K5



♠
 ♥ 743
 ♦
 ♣ 7

On a low heart lead from South, West and North both played low, and East was forced to win with ♥J, then lead round to ♣K, which was declarer's tenth trick. West immediately apologised for missing a 'crocodile coup': inserting ♥Q at trick would have prevented his partner from being endplayed. However, this inspired play would not have beaten the contract: declarer would have won ♥Q and exited with ♥8 round to West's 9. West's ♣Q lead at trick 12 would have been ducked in dummy, East couldn't afford to overtake, so at trick 13 West's ♥5 would be led round to declarer's ♥7, an unexpected source of declarer's tenth trick!

Can you see where the defence went wrong? Both could have come down to two cards in each suit, but West could have saved the day alone by discarding the ♣Q (another unblock) at trick 9 before performing his suggested crocodile coup at trick 10. Now he has a low club to lead at trick 12 and East wins the last two tricks with ♣AJ.

Two unblocks and a crocodile coup by the defenders on the same hand!

BRIDGE HAND (2)

IMPROVER HAND

MAKING THE MOST OF OUR INTERMEDIATE CARDS (by Richard Granville)

Board: 1940 Dealer: South Vul: None Contract: 3NT by South Lead: ♥Q

South	West	North	East
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

North

♠ K932
♥ 65
♦ QJ74
♣ J85

West

♠ 865
♥ QJT98
♦ 653
♣ A7

East

♠ QJ74
♥ 7432
♦ 92
♣ K43

South

♠ AT
♥ AK
♦ AKT8
♣ QT962

North bids 3♣ (Stayman) to investigate whether there is a spade fit. When South denies a four card major, N/S reach 3NT.

After the heart lead, our ♠AK, ♥AK and ♦AKQJ give us eight top tricks, but it won't be easy to find the ninth. We could set up three extra tricks in clubs by knocking out ♣AK, but the opponents would then be able to cash at least three heart tricks. We can only afford to lose the lead once.

See if you can find a plan for a 9th trick before reading on.

Since we don't have time to establish our clubs, we must look for our ninth trick in spades. We could try cashing ♠A and running ♠T, but West would cover from holdings such as ♠QJ86 or ♠J74 and we would only collect a third trick in the suit if either opponent held ♠Qx (or ♠QJ alone).

We have much better prospects in spades if we lead towards our ♠AT. At trick 2, therefore we enter dummy in diamonds and lead ♠2. We're intending to finesse ♠T, but in practice East plays ♠J. We win with ♠A and run ♠T to East's ♠Q. East knocks out our remaining heart stopper, but we can re-enter dummy in diamonds to cash ♠K9. We cash our remaining diamond winners and concede the rest. If East had played low at trick 3 our ♠T would have been our ninth trick. If West had been able to win with ♠J or ♠Q, we would still have a third trick in spades if East started with ♠Qxx, ♠Jxx, ♠Qx or ♠Jx

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Club News

Busbridge Bridge Club

Busbridge Duplicate Bridge Club welcomes all members past and present to our two Christmas Drinks and Nibbles nights on Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th December. They're at the club and start as usual at 7:30 with bridge afterwards.

If you not a regular attendee, please email secretary@busbridgebridge.org.uk.

Club Teacher Training

Why not become a bridge teacher:

So you can encourage others to take up this fabulous game?

So you can help your club increase its membership?

There is a Club Teacher Training course 12th, 13th April at Horsham Bridge Club

If your club books the course the club can obtain another 20% discount from the already heavily subsidised price of £108.

To book a place on this course, please contact [Lisa Miller](#) on 01296 317217

For more details please go to:

<http://www.ebedcio.org.uk/club-teacher-training#courses>

If you wish to discuss this course with a professionally qualified Bridge Teacher by all means contact douglaswright@3countiesbridge.com

Charity News

Would anyone or would a small group of friends like to raise over £5000 for their favourite Charity?

Would you like to organize the 15 restaurants and help with Guildford Café Bridge on Thursday 27 September or 4 October 2018?

If any one wishes to promote their Charity event in this section please contact:

Secretary



Gail Norman

Youth News

Our flagship junior event, the Surrey Schools Cup, takes place on 2 Feb, and we expect some new schools to join us this year. Roehampton Club are kindly hosting us. We've opened it up to schools from nearby areas, too, so if you know of a bridge-playing school within range, please contact them asap, or let me know and I'll do so.

Teams representing England have qualified for all four sections of the Junior World Championships, to take place in China in 2018. We're the only country in the world to qualify in all four.

Somewhat more locally:

The club at **Harrodian**, Barnes, restarted in October, this time in the senior school

A club has just started at **Broadwater School**, Farncombe, with several of the school's teachers joining in to learn, too

Following a whole school day of taster sessions at **Boxgrove Primary**, Guildford, we're hoping a club will start there next term - many thanks to all the people who helped Douglas Wright run such an extensive programme

Unfortunately, our explorations with St John the Baptist School, Woking, and Charterhouse, Godalming, didn't come to fruition

The EBU have drafted a new Safeguarding Policy, designed to help protect children and vulnerable people. In the light of this, we're aiming to agree a Surrey policy in January, and will be forwarding that policy to clubs in case they need to review or set their own.

There are several Minibridge Teach the Teacher Courses planned for anyone who wishes to help teach youngsters:

Thursday 31st May at Horsham BC

Sunday 24th June at Wimbledon BC

Youth & University Officer



Tim Warren

Southern Counties Junior Bridge Camp

Parents and grandparents are welcome to accompany younger juniors (and play bridge themselves). Mark the date in your diary.

Date - Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th July 2018.

Place - Ardingly College, College Rd, Ardingly, Haywards Heath RH17 6SQ.

Age range - 8-21 years old, from beginners to experts.

Programme - 5 teaching sessions, 2 competitions with prizes, and speedball for the older and keener juniors.

Teaching - Minibridge and bridge using EBED Junior Awards Scheme. We intend to coordinate the subjects taught with the Wessex Junior Bridge event in April to start to create a rolling programme.

Accommodation - Ardingly College - bed, dinner, breakfast and two lunches.

Cost - expected to be £65 for residential juniors and £35 for non-residential juniors.

If you would like to receive the detailed information and registration forms in due course, or are interested in helping or teaching, could you please let William Bourne know at reg@sccba.co.uk or on 07876 350650?

Next Newsletter

The next newsletter will be in March 2018. News, views and interesting hands, what is happening at your club – please send them to me.