



Surrey County Bridge Association

Newsletter #11 August 2013

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President's Introduction

For the first time for some years we have had a good summer and I hope you are all refreshed and reinvigorated for the traditional start of the new bridge season which begins with the heats of the newly introduced club pairs challenge and at the end of September, Surrey's flagship weekend congress, which is a chance to add to your green point tally. I hope you will look at the calendar on the SCBA website and find an event to try if you haven't played in a Surrey competition before.

Looking back a little, the recently held Surrey AGM was a great success thanks to Mac Derwig's organisation with a wide range of representatives from different clubs and the best attendance for several years. The link between the clubs and the county is an important one and the AGM provides a good opportunity to exchange views.

The county is once again running a number of seminars which give aspiring players the opportunity to improve different aspects of their game. There are a number of representative events over the year and some such as the Metropolitan Cup which is run in three different sections gives less experienced players an introduction to inter-county competition. The committee is working hard to explore ways to bring new and younger players into the game to safeguard the long-term future of bridge within the county.

I wish you all an enjoyable and successful season.

Graham Osborne

President

The 2013-2014 calendar

September 2013			
Mon-Fri	16-20	Surrey Sim. Pairs for the Dorin Salver	Clubs
Sat	28	Surrey Green-Pointed Swiss Pairs	Spectrum
Sun	29	Surrey Green-Pointed Swiss Teams	Spectrum
October 2013			
Sat	12	Club Pairs Challenge Final	Farnham
Wed	23	Club Chairmen's Lunch (by invitation)	Old Barn, Bookham
November 2013			
Tues	5	Midweek Pairs	Ripley Village Hall
Sun	10	Multiple Teams of 4	Ripley Village Hall
Sun	24	Friendly Pairs	Oxshott
December 2013			
Sun	1	Senior Pairs	Oxshott
Sun	8	Ian Pagan Seminar Card play combinations	Bourne
January 2014			
Sun	12	Affiliated Clubs Teams of 8	Richmond
Sun	26	Mixed Pairs	Oxshott
February 2014			
Sun	9	Friendly Swiss Pairs	Oxshott
Sun	16	Mens and Ladies Pairs	Oxshott
Mon-Fri	17-21	Surrey Sim. Pairs	Clubs
March 2014			
Sun	2	Ian Pagan Seminar High level competitive bidding	Wimbledon
Sun	30	County Pairs Cup & Plate	Ripley Village Hall
April 2014			
Sun	6	Spring Blue-Pointed Swiss Pairs	Oxshott
Sun	13	Friendly Teams	Oxshott
May 2014			
Sun	11	Mary Edwards Cup	Wimbledon
June 2014			
Sun	1	Leagues Finals	Oxshott
Sun	15	AGM Swiss Pairs	East Horsley
Tues	17	TRY TEAMS	Churt
Wed	18	TRY TEAMS	Churt
Sun	22	TRY TEAMS	Wimbledon
Sun	29	Wanborough Cup	Wimbledon

Lost the insert in the August Bridge magazine? Why not print out this page to take to your club and find partners for these events.

Knock-outs and Leagues

Lady Rose Cup

This is a KO Teams-of-4 running from October to May. Playing 32 Boards (28 by agreement) in each match except the final which is 48 boards (32 in the plate)

1st round losing teams enter Plate free.

Players must be primary members of Surrey to qualify to represent the County in the Pachabo Cup.

The Cup is **Green pointed**.

The 2013-14 season is now open for entries and entry forms can be found on the Competition Entry page of the SCBA website or you can enter electronically on the Competition Entry page.

Entries by 12th September

Surrey and Novice Leagues

Last year was the second year of running these leagues in the new format and it is proving to be a success with many new teams entering and with a fair degree of movement of teams from the Novice League to the Surrey League and between the different divisions of the Surrey League.

The 2013-14 season is now open for entries and entry forms can be found on the Competition Entry page of the SCBA website or from Trevor Hobson on 07545 966 008 or by email at trevor_hobson@hotmail.com.

The Surrey League is divided into four divisions to provide competitive bridge for all players irrespective of experience and ability. Division 1 is played on a county-wide basis, while Divisions 2 to 4 are subdivided into sections geographically to keep travel to a minimum.

Division 1 Is the premier teams league competition in Surrey

Division 2 Is suitable for most of the top club players in Surrey

Division 3 Is for the majority of club players in Surrey

Division 4 This is the entry level to Surrey teams competitions and is broadly equivalent to the 'improver' sections run by many clubs. EBU membership is not required.

The Novice League is used by teachers as a means of giving their pupils experience in team competitions, from where they can progress to the Surrey League. The Novice League is subdivided into sections geographically to avoid excessive travel.

The closing date for entries is:

Surrey League: 1 October 2013

Novice League: 20 October 2013

The Victor Ludorum

How will you do this season in the Victor Ludorum? Do you even know what it is?

The Victor Ludorum is awarded to the Surrey player who gets the most number of VL points during the season. VL points are awarded in SCBA competitions that are open to all Surrey players. So you can get VL points for the County Pairs - which anyone can enter, but not for the Senior Pairs which is restricted by age. So, what events count and how do you get VL points in them?

There are some one day events:

AGM Swiss Pairs

Club pairs Challenge Final

County Pairs Cup & Plate

Ladies Pairs

Mens Pairs

Mixed Pairs

Multiple Teams of 4

Midweek Pairs

Spring Swiss Pairs

Summer Swiss Teams

In each of these you get 2 VL points for coming in the top 25% of the field, and 1 VL point for coming 50% or more and below 25%.

And then there are the Leagues and Knock-outs:

- Lady Rose Cup
- Lady Rose Plate
- Surrey League Divisions 1 to 4

In these you get 1 VL point per win, up to a maximum of 3 VL points per event.

You can see how you are doing in the Victor Ludorum on the Results page on the SCBA web site:

www.surreycountybridge.org.uk/SurreyResults.php, scroll down the page to 'Other'

Play of the hand: making the most of card combinations

A seminar on how to make the most out of numerous card combinations


By Ian Pagan

Ian is one of the country's top professional players. He was in the British under 25 team, competed in the Camrose and has won the Spring Fours, the National Men's Pairs a record 4 times, the Hubert Phillips, Crockfords, Tollemache and Pachabo. He has played in the winning team in the Camrose Trophy.

We consider many of these through playing then discussing together 20 deals from various national and international competitions.

Ian has held several superb seminars for good club players during 2012/2013. By popular request since the seminars were so well received, we are holding another two seminars, the first on 8 December at 1.00pm at The Bourne Club, and the second, High Level Competitive Bidding, on 2 March 2014 at Wimbledon Bridge Club. You can apply to the seminar by going to www.surreycountybridge.org.uk/CompetitionEntryForm.php and select the event from the drop down of competitions and completing the on-line form or click on Entry Form for a downloadable entry form.

Here's an example:

	♠ A4 ♥ KJ6 ♦ A8432 ♣ J102	
♠ 976 ♥ 9852 ♦ KQJ6 ♣ K9		♠ J10852 ♥ Q104 ♦ 9 ♣ Q876
	♠ KQ3 ♥ A73 ♦ 1075 ♣ A543	

Dealer North
Love all

West	North	East	South
	1NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening lead Jack of Spades

Key Combination: A8xxx 10xx

Correct play of the Diamond suit brings home the contact. Start by leading the 10. The only 4-1 break you can legitimately handle is the singleton 9. In addition, if West mistakenly covers with QJ9x (or KQ9x or KJ9x)

he will regret it when his partner's singleton honour drops, enabling you to make 3 Diamond tricks. There is some history to this combination. In the 1990s, one of England's top players failed to lead the 10 with this combination in the final match of the National Swiss Teams. There was a singleton 9 and had he led the 10 his team would have won the event.

Guildford Café Bridge

In aid of The Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice
Thursday 26th September 2013

Tickets sold out in record time. I hope that everyone who managed to get a ticket (which means that I left it too late. Ed) has a good time. I look forward to a report for the next newsletter.

TRY BRIDGE WEEKENDS

You are invited to join the well-known Surrey Teachers and Directors, June Booty and Douglas Wright, for a WEEKEND of Bridge in Bournemouth, overlooking the sea:

6/7/8th September 2013

25/26/27th October 2013

4/5/6th April 2014

www.dayshotelbournemouth.co.uk

There are 2 seminars and if you would like to have specific topics covered during the seminars please email douglaswright@3countiesbridge.com

Club news, club events and other snippets

Richmond

Sunday 8th September - Blue pointed Swiss Pairs. This will be stratified by NGS grade (is this a first?). Booking is via the website.

Also 3 spots by Paul Mendelson

Paul will be taking three two hour lessons all at 10:30am. There is no need to book and you don't have to come to all of them. Just turn up on the day of any or all you fancy. The cost of each of these will be £15.00

- Saturday 31st August - Competitive bidding
- Saturday 7th September - Bidding decisions at duplicate
- Saturday 14th September - Defence: Planning for defeat

Further ahead, on Saturday 5th October our brilliant teacher Giorgio Provenza will be taking a seminar "All about Doubles" 10:30am. Just turn up.

For more information please go to the Richmond web site: www.richmondbridgeclub.com

Bourne Club

Open Swiss Teams 23 March 2014, 1pm for a 1:30pm start.

Wimbledon

Wednesday 18th September

Gad Chadha is giving a seminar entitled 'Coping with Interference'.

Saturday 28th September

We are having an Open Day at which beginners can learn to play mini-bridge and we will be starting both beginners and intermediate courses in October.

For more information please go to the Wimbledon web site: www.wimbledonbridgeclub.co.uk

Coombe Hill Golf Club

Coombe Hill Golf Club is holding a charity golf-bridge day on October 3rd. For more details please go to their web site: coombehillcharitybridgeandgolfproam.com

South Croydon

South Croydon Bridge Club is holding Swiss Teams on:

- Sunday 20 October and
- Sunday 15 December

Start time 2pm.

Please contact Mary Sales (0208 660 7513) or Andrew Worth (0208 686 5532) for entry details.

Mayfield

Mayfield Bridge Club is hosting a second Open Swiss Pairs event on Tuesday 29th October.

Last year Mayfield Bridge Club organised and hosted its very first open to all Swiss Pairs event. Held on a Tuesday club night in October it was considered to be a highly successful and enjoyable evening by all those who took part and over 90% of the attendees said they would play again in a similar event.

Notices will be going out this month so if you would like to play please put the date of the 29th October in your diary. We will be sending notices to Surrey clubs and publishing details on our website

www.mayfieldbridge.co.uk

3 Counties Bridge

TRY BRIDGE

Please encourage all your non-bridge playing friends/relatives to attend FREE TASTER SESSIONS on

17, 18 and 19th SEPTEMBER in Churt and Farnham

Beginner Courses and lessons for bridge players, of all levels, start week commencing 23rd September

LEARNING WEEKENDS FOR CLUB & SOCIAL PLAYERS

The "Art of Defence" is being taught over the weekend of 16/17th November, 10am – 5.30pm each day. Come and join Douglas Wright in a lovely Tudor Barn, Quinnettes, in Churt GU10 2NU. The cost is £145 for the weekend, including all refreshments and lunch.

BRIDGE SUPPERS

If you like the idea of having a lovely supper and an enjoyable evening of bridge then a Saturday Bridge Supper is just the thing.

For more information please go to the 3 Counties Bridge website: www.3countiesbridge.com or contact douglaswright@3countiesbridge.com or on 07801 989 630

Mini-Bridge Day at Carshalton High School for Girls

On 26 June more than 200 year 7 students participated in a Minibridge Immersion Day. The event was run by the Maths Department as part of CHSG's Learning Skills Day. Minibridge is a simplified version of the game of bridge and is the route into bridge recommended by the English Bridge Union (EBU), the national governing body for bridge in England. Minibridge was first developed in France and the Netherlands as an introduction to bridge for schoolchildren and was soon acknowledged as an excellent game in its own right.



The EBU and Surrey County Bridge Association organised 9 additional certified instructors to help lead the immersion day. Four members of the GB U20 Bridge Team, Christopher Huber, Toby Nonnenmacher, Michael Alishaw and Shahzaad Natt, were also invited to the immersion day. Seven year 8 students, Rowen Brechin, Lydia Edewor, Zoe Smith, Abigail Manning, Olivia MacKenzie, Olivia Rumsey and Halah Afghan had been learning to play Minibridge after school during the spring time with one of CHSG's maths teachers. As a result of these students' promising ability and dedication to the bridge club, they were invited

to help the EBU instructors teach the year 7 students to play Minibridge on the immersion day.

There were two 2- hour sessions where the students learned to recognise the suits and their ranks, to deal and sort cards by rank, to understand what a trump and trick are and to play as declarer or dummy. By the end of period 4, all of the girls were playing with partners and trying to win more tricks than the opposing team! During period 5, four students from each group were chosen to play with the more experienced year 8 girls. They played some specially prepared hands to enhance their skills and to allow them to test each other against the other pairs. All of the students were introduced to the no fear bridge site, www.nofearbridge.co.uk, where they could learn more and practise by playing online.



All of the year 7 students were invited to join the after school Bridge Club which is in run by Mrs Huber in B02 every Wednesday after school. In September an instructor from the EBU will be coming to the club each week to teach the girls to play bridge. It is hoped that CHSG can cultivate a bridge team to compete against other schools in Minibridge and regular bridge competitions over the coming years. The GB U20 Team members spoke to the girls about the benefits of playing competitive bridge. Three of the young men had travelled to China last summer for 10 days to represent Great Britain in the Youth World Bridge Championships where they made it to the quarterfinals! These young men have all travelled all



across Europe to play for Great Britain, including in 2013 to Finland, Ireland, Poland and the Netherlands. The year 8 girls were excited by the opportunities that playing bridge might afford them.

The Minibridge Immersion Day was so successful that the Maths Department is considering making it an annual event. SCBA also organised Minibridge days in two other schools, Weydon and Bohunt, so if there are other schools who would like to have a day of Minibridge please contact douglaswright@3countiesbridge.com or on 07801 989 630, as he organises numerous teaching activities within Surrey, Hampshire and Sussex.



Defensive Problem in Surrey League

As the summer comes to an end and thoughts turn to the new bridge season. One of the best events in the calendar is the Surrey League. The beauty of the League is that the matches can be played on any date, at any time of day and at any location in Surrey. The League is efficiently organised by Trevor Hobson, and there are several divisions to suit all standards.

Here is an interesting lead and defensive problem from last season, faced by Peter Lee as West. His opponents were playing Acol with a mini NT.

Dealer S Love All, IMPs

West	S	W	N	E
♠ KJ87				
♥ KJ	1♥	Dbf	4♥	All Pass
♦ 97				
♣ AJ973				

What should West lead? Nothing looks particularly attractive. A trump is out as that is highly likely to give away a trick. A diamond is the most passive possibility, but that could help declarer to pick up a diamond honour in partner's hand, not to mention giving away a lot of information to declarer about your own hand. Of the black suits, a spade is a better shot than a club as it has the latter probably needs partner to hold one precise card (♣K) whereas the former works well if partner has one of two cards (♠A or ♠Q). So it comes down to a choice between the pointed suits.

Peter Lee chose to lead ♠7 (playing standard leads and signals) and saw this dummy.

	♠ 52
	♥ 109843
	♦ AKJ6
	♣ 108
IMPs	
♠ KJ87	
♥ KJ	
♦ 97	
♣ AJ973	

On this occasion the spade lead works well as partner holds the ♠Q and declarer wins the first trick with ♠A. At trick two he plays ♦5 to the 9, A and 8. and then leads ♥3 from dummy to the 7, Q and K. What should West lead now?

There seem to be three plausible defences:

- If partner holds ♦Q or if declarer holds a 4-card diamond suit then it is right to defend passively, cash a spade winner, exit in diamonds and wait for your minor suit tricks.
- If partner holds ♣K and declarer has a useful discard available on dummy's a diamond winners (e.g. if declarer holds ♠A10x ♥AQxxx ♦Qxx ♣Qx) then it is necessary to cash out the defence's black suit winners at this point.
- If *declarer* holds ♣K and has a useful discard available on dummy's diamond winners (e.g. if declarer holds ♠Axx ♥AQxxx ♦Qxx ♣Kx then it is necessary to lead a small spade, hoping that partner can win and play a club through declarer's king.

Can any useful inferences be drawn from partner's signalling? A good method is to play suit preference in trumps, but here partner might have started with a singleton heart, (although the opponents don't play 5-card majors, Opener might have been dealt one!). What about partner's diamond card? Should that be suit preference? If this is standard count, then partner has an even number so at least that rules out declarer holding 4 diamonds.

Which defence should West play for, or is it just a guess?

At the table, West had little hesitation in playing for the third option: he led ♠8 to East's ♠10, and on winning the trick, East played a club through for one down. This was the full deal:

	♠ 52	
	♥ 109843	
	♦ AKJ6	
	♣ 108	
IMPs		
♠ KJ87		♠ Q109
♥ KJ		♥ 75
♦ 97		♦ 10842
♣ AJ973		♣ Q642
	♠ A643	
	♥ AQ62	
	♦ Q53	
	♣ K5	

So how did West know to play a low spade? I have to confess that I missed out an important detail. At trick 1, East contributed the **nine** of spades. It's normal to play 'third hand high' of course, but here East was able to deduce West's spade holding from the 4th highest lead and East could see that it might help partner to clarify the spade position. Declarer would not win the ace from AQ in this position, so when East's nine forced out the ace, West deduced that East must have started with ♠Q109(x)(x).

Bridge is a partnership game. Next time your partner 'misdefends' a contract, before you criticise, please stop to think: 'how could I have defended better to help?'

Teams-of-four is far more relaxing than matchpoint pairs: you don't need to spend too much time worrying about overtricks and if you finish a hand quickly you can go straight on to the next one without having to wait for other tables to finish. If you finish the entire set of boards quicker than the other table, you can get started earlier on the food and drink! Why not give the Surrey League a try this year?

By Jeffrey Allerton

Changes to the EBU alerting & announcing rules 1st August 2013

With thanks to Jill Cook on whose document this information is based.

Opening 2NT bids now have to be announced with their range values (as with 1NT).

3♣ Stayman and 3♦/3♥ Red Suit Transfers after a 2NT opening now have to be announced, not alerted (as with 1NT).

However, 5-card Stayman, Puppet Stayman, Baron and any other artificial 3♣ which is not standard 4 card Stayman do still have to be alerted....after both 1NT and 2NT.

1♣/1♦ openings which may show fewer than 3 cards and are non-forcing (as for example in some 5 card major systems or systems where it might show a weakish balanced hand) now have to be announced as "may be two" or "may be one" or "may be zero". However where the minor opener is forcing it should still be alerted.

Artificial bids above 3NT in the 1st round of the auction now have to be alerted. The first round of the auction is defined as the first bid and the three subsequent calls. An artificial bid is a bid which does not promise at least 3 cards in the suit bid or which promises some other suit.

Examples are:

- (1) Leaping Michaels over opponent's Weak 2 opener [eg. (2♥) - 4♣ overcall, which shows spades and clubs. 4♣ has to be alerted now]
- (2) Texas Transfers [eg. where 1NT - (P) - 4♥ is a transfer to spades. Alert the 4♥ bid]
- (3) Cue bids and splinters [eg 1♠ - (P) - 4♦ where 4♦ shows a control/shortage] should now be alerted.

Don't forget that all doubles over a natural suit bid below 3NT are assumed to be for take-out unless alerted. So if you want to double someone's suit bid for penalties or for, say, showing 3 card support then that double has to be alerted.

Also, a double of any NT bid in any position is always assumed to be for penalties unless alerted. [e.g. (1♠) - P - (1NT) - X, has to be alerted if you intend this to be a take-out of 1♠].

Doubles of artificial suit bids below the level of 3NT are alerted if they do not show the suit which has been bid. However, doubles of short 1♣/1♦ are alerted if not for takeout.

Paul Shannon 01/08/2013

Richard Currie Memorial Swiss Pairs

Congratulations to the winners John Amor and Michael Hampton



On Sunday, 28 July, 46 pairs celebrated Richard Currie's life in the third annual Swiss Pairs event, organised by Farnham Bridge Club at the Memorial hall in Farnham.

This blue-pointed competition went very smoothly under the excellent guidance of Steve Foster, the experienced Surrey County Director.

Bob Evans and Frances Trebble, our longstanding President and Vice-President traditionally welcomed everybody at arrival. Entrance fees and raffle money were gratefully received. The raffle organised by Geoff Bailey went well; Sainsbury, Boots, Waterstones and Elphick donated prizes and 470 tickets were sold, which meant on average £5 per participant. All this was in support of the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice.

Brigitte Ebert was responsible for the high quality plated tea, professionally helped by Charlie's Kitchen. Soft drinks were available throughout.

During the last of the six of the 8 board matches quite a number of pairs made a gallant attempt to dislodge Richard's close friend John Amor and his partner Michael Hampton from the first place to no avail. They won all their matches and scored a very impressive 104 VP's. Farnham members Helen Mitchell and Tony Philpott were runners up and Julia Brough and Steve Bourton claimed third place.

This Charity Bridge event will of course be repeated next year. Farnham Bridge Club can't wait.

The next newsletter

The next newsletter will be in December. Please send me articles for it.