



# Surrey County Bridge Association

## Newsletter #12 December 2013



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### President's Introduction

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The new season is well underway and several Surrey events have been played. The club pairs challenge again proved popular and this year was won by Inu Kassam & Anthony Stone. Mac Derwig hosted a lunch for the Club Chairman in October. There was an excellent turnout with representatives of 28 clubs present. This is a valuable opportunity for club representatives to raise issues with the county committee, but more importantly the Surrey Chairman was pipped by his wife in the bridge!

In the New Year the county is running an extensive schedule of events. I would like to especially recommend the Friendly Swiss Pairs on February 9th to less experienced players who haven't yet played in a county competition, whilst more experienced players might want to consider Ian Pagan's seminar on high level competitive bidding on March 2nd.

On a personal note I was pleased to see Jeremy Dhondy, a friend of mine, recently elected chairman of the EBU. I am hopeful he will be a positive force for the game in this country. Surrey, with its large membership, has more than average influence on EBU policy and direction so I encourage members to speak to committee members about any issues that you may have.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to hope members have a Happy Christmas and to extend my best wishes for the New Year.

Graham Osbourne  
President

## The 2013-2014 calendar

<b>December 2013</b>			
Sun	1	Senior Pairs	Oxshott
Sun	8	Ian Pagan Seminar Card play combinations	Bourne
<b>January 2014</b>			
Sun	12	Affiliated Clubs Teams of 8	Richmond
Sun	26	Mixed Pairs	Oxshott
<b>February 2014</b>			
Sun	9	Friendly Swiss Pairs	Oxshott
Sun	16	Mens and Ladies Pairs	Oxshott
Mon-Fri	17-21	Surrey Sim. Pairs	Clubs
<b>March 2014</b>			
Sun	2	Ian Pagan Seminar High level competitive bidding	Wimbledon
Sun	30	County Pairs Cup & Plate	Ripley Village Hall
<b>April 2014</b>			
Sun	6	Spring Blue-Pointed Swiss Pairs	Oxshott
Sun	13	Friendly Teams	Oxshott
<b>May 2014</b>			
Sun	11	Mary Edwards Cup	Wimbledon
<b>June 2014</b>			
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

## *Chairmen Galore*

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It was a great pleasure to have the opportunity to welcome the Chairmen of thirty Surrey Bridge Clubs to the 'working' lunch at the Old Barn Hall in Bookham on Wednesday 23 of October.

The SCBA Committee (itself very well represented) met many well-known players who are all helping to promote the noble game of bridge throughout the County. Many issues were discussed informally during the five hours of the event.

The venue was excellent (but we knew that and are coming back there next year on 22 October), the lunch provided by Cafefig delicious and Steve Foster directed the proceedings in his usual calm and efficient way.

The hands were interesting and it was fitting that the newly elected President, Graham C. Osborne, ably partnered by Varda Derwig, won this now traditional contest. I am sure you would agree with me, that it would have been wrong for your Chairman and the ex-President Graham Davison to have pipped them at the post.

Mac Derwig

## Ian Pagan Seminar – 8<sup>th</sup> December 1.00pm at The Bourne Club

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"Play of the hand: making the most of card combinations"

Ian is one of the country 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 Pachebo. He has played in the winning team in the Camrose Trophy.

We will have to play 20 deals from various national and international competitions and have to consider many critical card combinations. Ian will then discuss and analyse each of the hands. You can apply to the seminar by going to [www.surreycountybridge.org.uk/CompetitionEntryForm.php](http://www.surreycountybridge.org.uk/CompetitionEntryForm.php) and select 'Card Combinations with Ian Pagan (08 Dec 2013)' from the drop down of competitions and completing the on-line form. There is room for 3 more pairs at this Seminar, if you would like to join the other good club players, who are attending.

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 a **further seminar on High Level Competitive Bidding, on 2 March 2014 at Wimbledon Bridge Club**. Please put the date in your diary, and apply on-line.

### Hall of fame

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Competition	Players	Place
Club Chairmens Lunch	Graham Osborne & Varda Derwig	First
Club Pairs Challenge Final	Inu Kassam & Anthony Stone	First
Dorin Salver Day 1 Monday	Tony Richards & Martin Camina	First
Dorin Salver Day 2 Tuesday	Joyce Bianconi & Mike Lipscomb	First
Dorin Salver Day 3 Wednesday	Linda McBride & Pennie Mackenzie	First
Dorin Salver Day 4 Thursday	Mike Skelly & David Wing	First and overall winners
Dorin Salver Day 5 Friday	Rosemary Hickman & David Hickman	First
Summer Swiss Teams (Aug BH)	Eddie Richart, Peter Bentley, William Frisby, Yola Makatrewicz	First
Surrey Green Pointed Swiss Teams	Arun Suri, Bob McRobert, Dee Lindon, Peter Lindon	First
Surrey Green Pointed Swiss Teams	Frances Hinden, Graham Osborne, Peter Lee, Jeffrey Allerton	Second equal
Midweek Pairs	George Blake & Janet Whitham	First

### Guildford Café Bridge – October 2013

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A dull and murky start to the day did not dampen the enthusiasm of 112 bridge players from London, Hampshire and Surrey for the charity bridge day.

Staff at All Bar One, Loch Fyne, Cafe Rouge, Ask, Olivo, Bill's and The Keep in Guildford all threw their doors open to the bridge players and accepted the disruption to their day with good humour, welcoming the players with a smile.

From 9:45 players started arriving at All Bar One in Guildford and soon the place was thronging with the participants. After a well-earned coffee and armed with their movement cards for the day, everyone made their way to their starting café. The weather had now brightened up and so no umbrellas were needed.

Players played 3 rounds of 4 boards at various cafes before taking lunch at their allotted venue. After lunch 3 more rounds were played before returning to All Bar One for a post mortem of the day followed by a short talk from an Ambassador from The Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice and prize giving.

Top scorers were Davina Arkell & Jan Benton, Merrita Dickinson & Chris Bonser, Thelma Scott & Dorothy Green and Margaret Lawson & Michael Herbert. Particular congratulations go to Thelma & Dorothy who stood in at the last minute when another couple dropped out.

The organisers, Bob Fuller (who also directed the event), Polly Youngs, Eddie Briggs and Brenda Elshaw (scorer) would like to thank 3 Counties, Hindhead and Grayshott bridge clubs for their loan of equipment and Douglas Wright for producing the boards and providing advice and support as needed. Thanks also to Pamela Fox, Rita Clifton, Tilly Peck and Jan Robinson for their invaluable assistance during the day and to Stephen Bligh of ScoreBridge for providing the scoring software and the movement. Thanks also to Julia Brough who travelled to Guildford specially on the day to act as a reserve player.

The day was a huge success. It was generally acknowledged that it was even more successful than last year's event.

The organisers heartily thank everyone for supporting the day which has raised £1500 for the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice.

## Try Bridge Afternoon - Tue 14 January, 2pm start, Thames Ditton

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Do you have any friends who would like to learn to play Bridge, but are unsure whether they will enjoy the game? Or someone who is interested in trying out something new to do during cold and miserable winter afternoons?

Meena Samani is running a Try Bridge Afternoon on **Tue 14 January 2014** at 2pm, in Thames Ditton, followed by a regular Tuesday afternoon Beginners course on Bridge, if there are enough takers. Everyone will be playing cards within the first 15 minutes and by the end of the afternoon, will have a good understanding of how Bridge is played.

It will be a fun event with a break for tea and cake.

All welcome. Please mail [meena@fun2playbridge.com](mailto:meena@fun2playbridge.com) or call 020 8339 0645 to reserve a place.

## Feedback

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We regularly hand out feedback sheets at our events, the comments we receive are always considered carefully and we are constantly making changes to our programme and venues in response.

Our main event of the year was the Green-Pointed weekend at the Spectrum in Guildford which was attended by around 350 people each day. Inevitably the feedback we received was not all consistent so of necessity we have to be guided by the majority view. The following is a summary of the feedback we received for that weekend:

- There were quite a number of positive comments about how well run the events were, and in particular in the way the directors stepped in at the start of the event on Saturday to cover for the delayed arrival of some participants caused by the closure of the M25.
- There was significant, though not unanimous, support for the earlier start time on 12 noon, so we plan to stay with this timing for next year.
- There was overwhelming support for a shorter break and so we plan to reduce the break from 45 to 30 minutes next year.

- There was general agreement that a break after four rounds (ie just over half way through the event) was preferred.
- Some concern was raised about the catering arrangements, both availability and cost. We noticed that many old hands brought their own food and refreshments, and we will make that a clearer recommendation for next year.
- There were also some, mixed, comments about the temperature control in the room. This is not one of those things that we can correct later so we would ask that such concerns are raised with the organisers at the time.

Many thanks to those of you that completed the feedback sheets. It is only by getting your comments, both positive and negative, that we are able to make improvements to our events.

Competitions Sub-Committee

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## Club news, club events and other snippets

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### ***Bourne Club***

On 2nd October the Bourne Club Bridge Section held an enormously successful Phyllis Tuckwell charity lunch. The event raised £2,360 for the hospice, plus £670 for the sale of their Christmas cards. Note for the diary. The 2014 event will be on 15th October.

We want to acknowledge the hard work of many members of the Bourne, both from the Bridge section and other sectors of the club, and the very generous contributions made to the raffle by many local organisations. to making this day a success.

Another note for the diary: Sunday 23 March Bourne Club Open Swiss Teams event

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### ***South Croydon***

South Croydon Bridge Club is holding Swiss Teams on:

- Sunday 15 December

Start time 2pm.

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

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### ***3 Counties Bridge***

#### **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](http://www.3countiesbridge.com) or contact [douglaswright@3countiesbridge.com](mailto:douglaswright@3countiesbridge.com) or on 07801 989 630

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### **Celia Talbot bequest**

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We were all saddened to learn of the recent death of Celia Talbot. In her Will, Celia made a generous gift of £1000 to the SCBA. The committee are currently discussing this bequest and hope to let you know the outcome of their deliberations in the next newsletter.

Celia lived in Croydon. She was a Premier National Master and played a lot of bridge, usually at her three main clubs Tandem, Chipstead and CCF Pegasus at Banstead.

In her later years she was handicapped by ill health, but prior to that she had enjoyed competing at the EBU Brighton Congresses, the EBU Seniors at Eastbourne and many local green pointed events, particularly the Surrey GP weekends at Guildford where she had been a regular competitor until a few years ago. She leaves a son and a daughter and several grandchildren.

## Gentle Duplicate sessions

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Andrew Travers and Meena Samani have organised gentle monthly duplicate sessions for players who would like to try out duplicate play and scoring with a fun and friendly group of like-minded enthusiasts! Hand records will be available at the end of the evening, so you can compare how you bid/played against what the computer thinks is possible! Results will also be published the following day.

Please do tell your friends and try out these sessions which are held on the first Monday of each month at Imber Court, Ember Lane, East Molesey, KT8 0BT, 7:20pm for 7:30pm prompt start.

The next dates are Mon 6 Jan, Mon 3 Feb and Mon 3 Mar. Please mail [meena@fun2playbridge.com](mailto:meena@fun2playbridge.com) or call 020 8339 0645 for more information.

## Night of the stars auction

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The Charity Pairs and Auction of Stars for the Night of the Stars 2014 took place at Coombe Hill Golf Club on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November. With thirty five tables in play and many more people joining to bid in the auction, the day was an enormous success. Popular Surrey director, Neil Morley, ensured the event ran smoothly and enjoyably.

The outstanding auctioneer and bridge celebrity, Paul Mendelson, auctioned the fifty Stars who have agreed to play in the Night of the Stars 2014. As a result of this fantastic day and the generosity of so many Stars and bidders, so far, approximately £28,000 has been raised for charity and the organisers are confident that the final figure will exceed £30,000.

Over the years, this internationally acclaimed event has united duplicated bridge players of all standards to join together to raise money for charity. The Night of the Stars 2014 will be taking place at The Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability in Putney on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February and is in support of: Teenage Cancer Trust, West London Action for Children, Macmillan Cancer Support and The Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability. For more information or to contact the organisers, please see [www.nightofthestars.org.uk](http://www.nightofthestars.org.uk)

## Bridge course material for sale

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### HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF TEACHING BRIDGE?

Here is an opportunity to acquire all the material you require to start teaching bridge successfully - turning your hobby into a profitable pastime. You get comprehensive yet easy to follow notes; revision exercises and over 100 pre-set hands stored in 12 conveniently sized plastic cabinets covering two courses – 'Beginners' (8 units) and 'Intermediate' (6 units) – PLUS a memory disc containing an introduction for new pupils, all 14 units and several additional bidding topics. Initial outlay was over £500 (excluding time!) but any reasonable offer considered for collection.

Phone 01276 858284

## Advanced Bidding and Play course

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An 8 week course, starting Friday 10 Jan, 9:45-12pm

This is the ideal course for players who have had 2 years of lessons or those already playing Bridge regularly, but wish to improve their competitive bidding, declarer play and defence. There will be a short tutorial on each topic, followed by lots of practice hands as well as table top exercises, quizzes and notes.

Bidding and play topics include More on Doubles, including Negative and Responsive Doubles, Avoidance Play, Defence Roundup including Suit Preference Signals, Unassuming Cue Bid, 2-suited Overcalls, Landy Defence to 1NT, Slam Bidding techniques, etc

The minimum commitment will be for 7 out of 8 sessions.

Please email [meena@fun2playbridge.com](mailto:meena@fun2playbridge.com) or call 020 8339 0645 for more information and to reserve a place.

## The next newsletter

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The next newsletter will be in March. Please send me anything you would like included in it.

