



SURREY COUNTY BRIDGE ASSOCIATION



2024 AGM: Annual Report Tim Warren, Chair

1. Introduction

I am pleased to present my annual report on SCBA's activities for the 2024 Annual General Meeting.

2. Financial Results 2023-24

Here is a summary of SCBA's income and expenditure in the recent financial year, together with our net reserves at the end of the year. For comparison, the columns on the right give equivalent figures from FY 22-23.

23-24	£000s	Inc	Exp	Net	22-23	Inc	Exp	Net
Green Point Weekend		3.7	1.4	2.3		3.7	2.2	1.5
Other Events		2.7	2.4	0.3		0.4	2.2	(1.9)
P2P Levy reinstated Oct 23		1.1	0.0	1.1		0.0	0.0	0.0
Charity Events		2.5	2.5	(0.0)		1.8	1.9	(0.1)
Representative Events		0.4	1.4	(1.0)		0.4	1.5	(1.1)
Development: Junior Bridge		0.0	2.2	(2.2)		1.0	1.5	(0.5)
Other		0.0	1.4	(1.4)		0.0	0.7	(0.7)
Other		0.5	0.3	0.2		0.2	0.5	(0.3)
Total	£000s	10.9	11.5	(0.6)		7.4	10.6	(3.2)
Reserves	£000s	23.0				23.6		

NB: Our Bridge Club Chairs' Consultation (see §3) has been reclassified from Other Events in the official accounts to Development here

The accounts have been reviewed and signed off by John Manches, who I thank for taking on the work at the last minute.

When Covid hit, we made the decision to use our reserves to promote and support bridge in the county, and by March 2023 those reserves had shrunk by about a quarter from the pre-pandemic level of just above £30k. We remain open to using those reserves to promote bridge, but in general our aim has reverted to "roughly break even". I consider that our loss of about £600 is in line with that aim.

A significant difference from the previous year is that we reinstated our pay-to-play levy on Surrey clubs with effect from October 2023. This was mainly so that we could continue our investment in junior bridge.

3. Review of Year

This is a high-level picture of the numbers of people entering our county events, with the red percentages showing changes from the previous year. For a longer-term context, I've also shown typical pre-Covid figures.

Leagues & Cup (# teams)	2023-24	2022-23	Pre-C (19-20)
Surrey Leagues – all divisions	34 -8%	37	34
Lady Rose Cup – qualifier & main	35 +9%	32	20
County Events (# tables)	2023-24	2022-23	Pre-C (19-20)
Green Point Weekend (Teams+Pairs)	38 -29%	54	127
Other County Events	61 +2%	60	93
Dorin Salver (Charity Sims)	183 +10%	166	343
Total	282 +1%	280	563

County events: The Green Point Weekend remains our flagship county event, and as our main source of income it supports numerous other activities. While income held up, numbers attending continued to fall. Other counties' experiences are similar, and it's clear our model will need to evolve for the future.

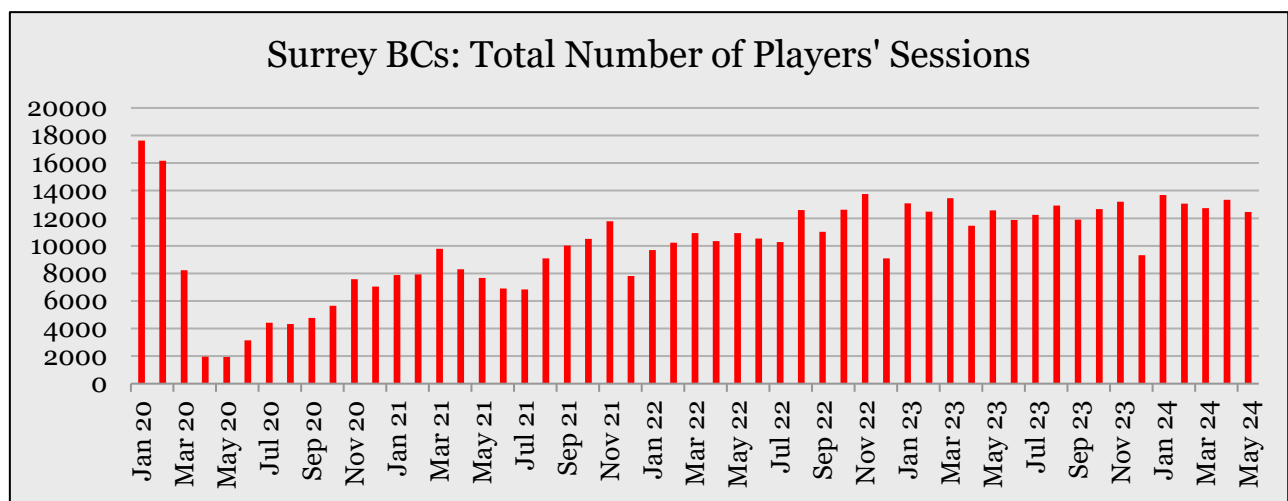
Surrey Leagues & Lady Rose Cup: These continued to be popular, albeit not quite at the level immediately post-Covid. As part of our encouragement of bridge outside the elite level, we introduced a pre-qualifier for the Lady Rose for those of NGS 9 or below. This attracted a good entry, and the pre-qual will continue next year.

Junior Bridge: Our Surrey Schools Cup continues to be the country's largest junior event, with 103 students this year across four competitions. Richard Challenor School kindly hosted the event again. Two new schools joined us, both of which won their respective events, so we're hopeful they'll be keen to join us in future years.

In the summer of 2023, we sponsored three Surrey players representing England in the junior World Championships. We expect to provide some support for the U16 team in the European Youth Bridge Team Championships this coming summer.

Since 2018, Kent, Sussex and Surrey have collaborated to put on the South-East Counties Junior Bridge Camp. Up to now, Surrey's input has been mainly behind the scenes and centred on the financial, but later this year we will be hosting it at Woldingham School, near Caterham.

Bridge in Surrey Clubs: The following graph shows the total number of sessions (face-to-face plus online) played by Surrey members each month, starting from immediately pre-Covid.

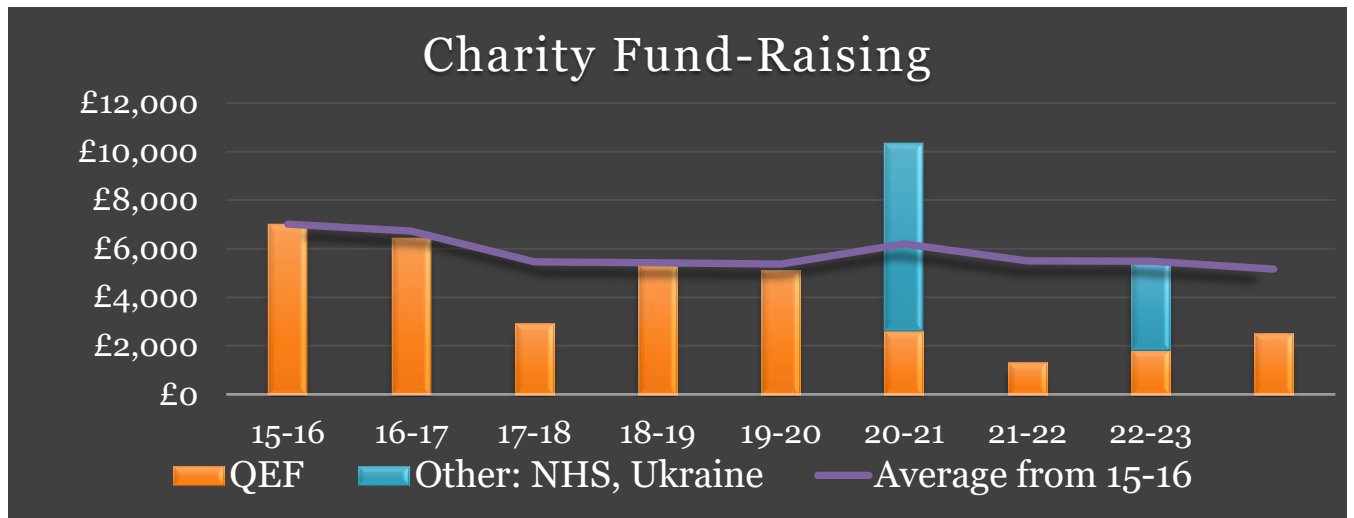


So far in 2024, sessions have been on average about 4% higher than in the same period in 2023. This suggests perhaps that the recovery curve post-Covid has flattened out. That would leave total attendances around 30% lower than the pre-Covid run-rate.

For many years under my predecessor as Chair, Trevor Hobson, we held a pairs event for the chairs of Surrey bridge clubs, and found the opportunity for informal discussion very valuable. This year we reinstated the event, with a mid-session set of presentations, including one from the EBU, centred on how to attract new members. We were really pleased to welcome representatives from roughly half of Surrey's BCs.

National Successes: A notable success this year was Peter Lee and Dave Norman winning the National Pairs for the second year running.

4. Charity Fund-Raising



Having fallen off significantly post-Covid, our fund-raising shows some limited signs of recovery, with this year's donation being 37% higher than in 2022-23. The Queen Elizabeth Foundation (QEF) – who originally provided the Dorin Salver as a trophy for the annual event – remains a cause we aim to support.

The coming year will include a national fund-raising effort for Cancer Research UK, to which we're encouraging Surrey clubs and members to make a major contribution.

5. The Year to Come: 2024-25

I've made several comments about the coming year in earlier sections. In addition, this year will be my last as Chair, and at the appropriate time making the transition to a new Chair will be an important task. I hope to be able to help them in taking the reins.

If you feel you would like to help SCBA in the future, whether as Chair or in some other capacity, I would love to hear from you.

6. Thank You

All that SCBA does is down to the sterling efforts of volunteers. As ever, I remain very grateful to the committee: Gail Norman, Jackie Hawkins, John Lemmey, June Middleton, Shirley Pritchard, Tony Cherrett, Trevor Hobson, William Clennell and to the many who help behind the scenes, including: Barbara Hobson, Barry Stoker, David Burch (who stood down during 23-24), Dave Norman (who took over from David B), Graham Osborne, John Manches and Julia Brough, plus those who help with events, including the Surrey Schools Cup.

Tim Warren, Chair
June 2024