

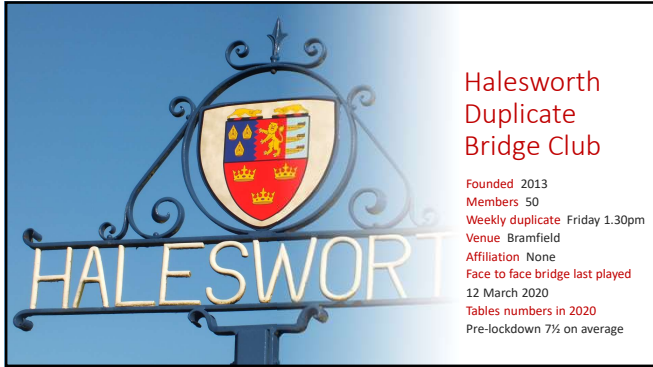
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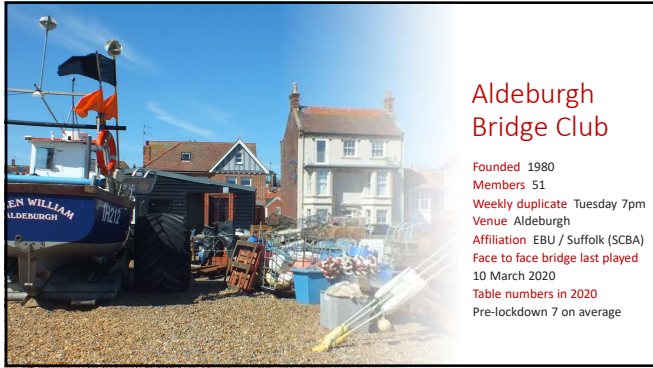
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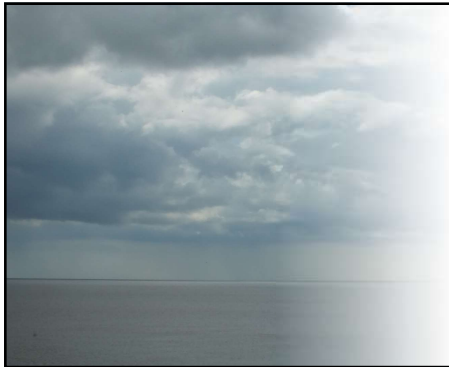
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Covid-19

- Social disruption
- Physical isolation
- Anxiety
- Loneliness
- Disorientation
- Boredom
- Frustration
- Helplessness

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Online Bridge

- Social engagement
- Connection
- Togetherness
- Activity
- Continuity
- Routine
- Helpfulness
- Fun

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Team Virtual


Dilys Hall (Chair of Heritage Coast Bridge Club since April 2021)

Graham Evans (Committee Member of Aldeburgh and Heritage Coast Bridge Clubs)

Christina Ballinger (Secretary of Heritage Coast Bridge Club since April 2019)

All three, members of all three clubs: Halesworth, Heritage Coast and Aldeburgh

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All at sea

- Transition chaos
- Platforms overwhelmed
- System overload problems
- Tech teams working to stabilise systems
- Bridge Club Live temporarily suspended member registration
- Bridge Base Online suspended new tournament hosting rights and cancelled tournaments at short notice

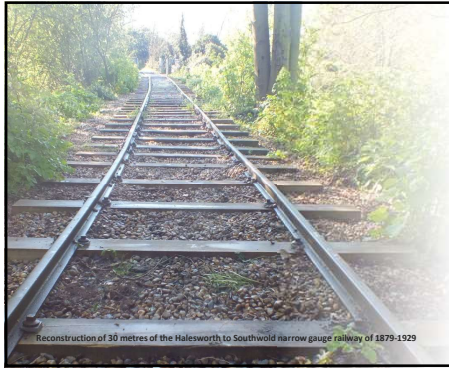
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March mayhem

- 11th / 12th:** The three clubs held final face-to-face sessions of 2020
- 20th:** HCBC registered as an online club on BCL
- 22nd:** SCBA hosted the first Suffolk Pairs tournament on BBO
- 24th:** BBO confirmed no new hosting
- 25th:** HCBC hosted first online practice event in BCL's Social Room
- 26th:** UK lockdown officially began
- 29th:** HCBC hosted first Teams of Four session in BCL, and weekly thereafter, until switching to BBO
- 30th:** HCBC formally invited ABC & HDBC to join the virtual club
- Consultation with SCBA ongoing

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The right track

Sue Johnston, HCBC & ABC Member, 26 March 2020

A very big thank you for all the hard work you have put into moving the HCBC into the 21st Century.

[The BCL practice session] was enjoyable, a great learning curve which will make it easier to use in the future.

I am sure the more people the merrier as far as membership is concerned, possibly inviting Aldeburgh Bridge Club members to join as well.

Zoom was interesting, it seems the whole world is using it, whereas a week ago I had never heard of it and now my Pilates class is run that way too!

I look forward to future online playing.

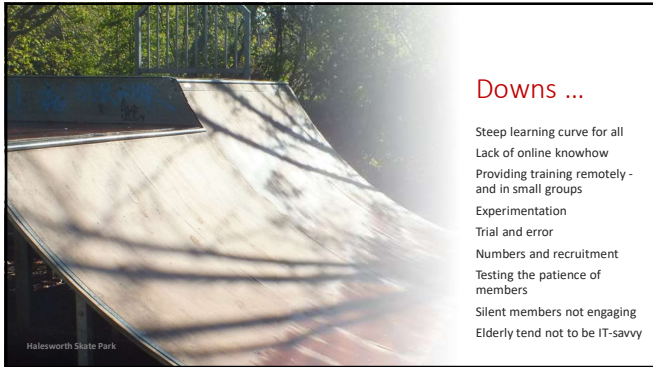
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Progress

April 14th: EBU launched the Virtual Clubs initiative; SCBA provided BBO director training
April 29th: HCBC held its first scored online pairs tournament on BBO, and held weekly events thereafter
May 13th: HCBC's BBO pairs tournament processed for the National Grading Scheme
Virtual club name: Organisers proposed a new name for the virtual club but the players like Heritage Coast

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Downs ...

Steep learning curve for all
 Lack of online knowhow
 Providing training remotely - and in small groups
 Experimentation
 Trial and error
 Numbers and recruitment
 Testing the patience of members
 Silent members not engaging
 Elderly tend not to be IT-savvy

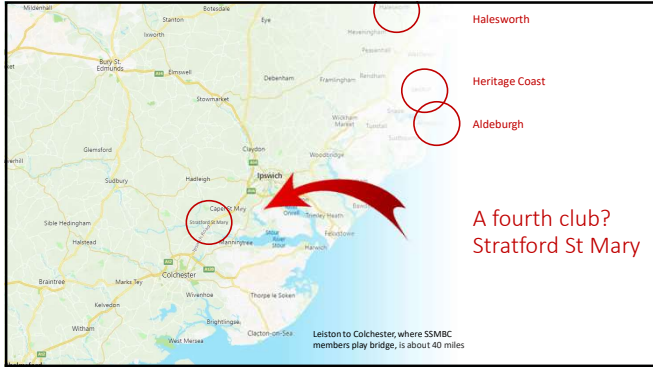
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... and Ups

Members (willing, grateful)
 Productive consultation
 Training and support (SCBA)
 Teamwork / pulling together
 Maintaining the club spirit
 Transferable skills
 Keeping the club local
 Participating in county and national events
 Raising funds
 Attracting new members
 Doing our bit, having fun

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**A fourth club?
Stratford St Mary**

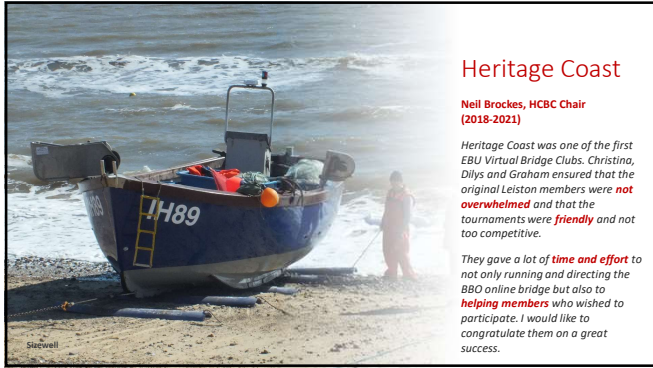
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Stratford St Mary Bridge Club

Founded 1985
Members 100+
Weekly duplicate Wednesday 7pm
Venue Colchester
Affiliation EBU / Suffolk (SCBA)
Face to face bridge last played 11 March 2020
First scored online event 22 April 2020 (BBO, in partnership with Colchester Bridge Club)


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Heritage Coast

Neil Brookes, HCBC Chair (2018-2021)
 Heritage Coast was one of the first EBU Virtual Bridge Clubs. Christina, Dilys and Graham ensured that the original Leiston members were **not overwhelmed** and that the tournaments were **friendly** and not too competitive.
 They gave a lot of **time and effort** to not only running and directing the BBO online bridge but also to **helping members** who wished to participate. I would like to congratulate them on a great success.

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Halesworth


Derek Anns, HDBC Chair

*In my personal view contact between clubs should be **informal** and on a **local** basis, not county wide, and would be encouraged on a **pragmatic** basis.*

*The overwhelming character of the clubs I know around here suggests a strong need for members to enjoy **social contact** and this is more likely to be achieved **without any formal arrangement** with another club. Some of us are very **insular!***

The Thoroughfare, Halesworth

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Aldeburgh

Sue Cook, ABC Chair

*Collaboration between bridge clubs in Suffolk was **sketchy** until the onset of Covid.*

*With the advent of online bridge, Heritage Coast BC **opened** their initiative to members of other clubs in the Suffolk Coastal area.*


*This was followed by **clubs further afield** also 'opening' their doors for online competition.*

*It is hoped that this type of collaboration **continues**.*

*There is a **place for both** normal duplicate bridge in a club situation **and** online competition.*

Scallop by Maggi Hambling Aldeburgh

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Stratford St Mary

Paul Rickard, Chair SSMBC


*Playing online has made it easy to establish **new positive relationships** which would not have been initiated otherwise.*

*Also, **smaller clubs** have joined with larger clubs, formally or informally - when running their own online sessions would not have been worthwhile.*

*This is particularly significant in a county such as Suffolk which has **many thriving bridge clubs** located away from the centres of population.*

The River Stour at Stratford St Mary marks the county boundary between Suffolk and Essex

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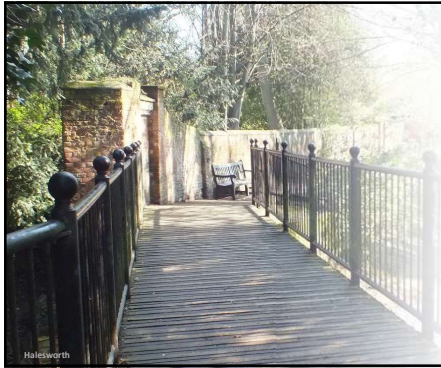


Who's been left behind?

Digital is exclusive
Many elderly members dislike online play
Is a divide emerging?
Future plans must cater for all members, local and remote, offliners and onliners

Halesworth Station

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Where next?

- Member survey
- Risk assessments
- Managing expectations
- F2F and online options
- New technology for hybrid events
- One-off events
- Inclusion


Halesworth

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Erosion or consolidation?

Lockdown radically changed club bridge
Online play breathed life into bridge clubs
Coming out of lockdown has its own challenges
An evolving situation
Next steps need great care



Cliff at Thorpe Ness © Graham Evans

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Local distinctiveness
in an online world

Halesworth

Aldeburgh

Leiston

Stratford St Mary

Thank you for watching

LEISTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

SHIPPERS OF LONDON 94

River Stour STRATFORD ST MARY

HALESWORTH MOVEABLE PLATFORMS