

Surrey County Bridge Association





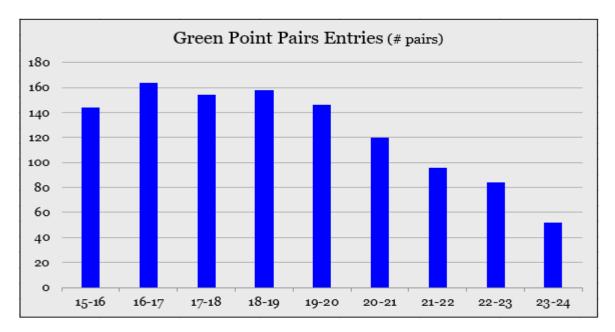
Introduction Tim Warren

A warm welcome to Surrey's autumn newsletter. As always, it's a busy time of the year for county bridge: among other things, our leagues and Lady Rose Cup have launched, and we've just held our flagship annual events, the Green Point Teams and Pairs.

Both Green Point events were face-to-face, with the teams in Godstone and the pairs in Richmond.

This time last year, I highlighted how the entries to our GP events had begun to wane well before Covid hit, with the Teams declining steadily since 2016. This year, our Teams entry remained steady, albeit at a very low level, but the Pairs continued to drop. In fact, the Pairs is now down to one-third of the numbers we attracted in 2018:

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All counties are finding similar falls with their traditional events, and this year several have had to cancel their Green Point equivalents altogether. I'm sure there are many contributory factors, but there's a clear feeling that, even where our potential audience is willing to play face-to-face, most no longer wish to travel more than 20-30 minutes.

This issue overlaps with another I wrote about in the spring of this year, that of the age of our members. Our teachers tell me there continue to be lots of people signing up to learn our wonderful game. But the proportion who progress to joining bridge clubs, let alone to playing in our county events, is small.

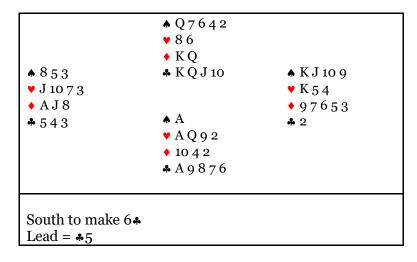
We're asking ourselves how we keep county events relevant. Do we need to change the whole structure of our programme? Should we be focusing on a different sector of our membership? If you have a view, I'd love to hear from you. I'll let you know where we get to in a future newsletter.

Calendar

Nov 12 th	Mixed Pairs (click for entry form)	Wimbledon
$Dec 4^{th} - 8^{th}$	Dorin Salver (different cards each day)	Clubs
Jan 7 th	Club Teams of 8 (click for entry form)	Wimbledon
Apr 21st	County Pairs and Plate	Richmond
May 12 th	Mary Edwards	Wimbledon
June 9 th	Wanborough Cup	Wimbledon
July 7 th	AGM	format TBA

Prize Double Dummy Puzzle #19

John Manches



June's puzzle seems to have proved harder than I thought – either that or most of our regular solvers had an extended summer break. Correct entries were received from only 4 solvers: Richard Fedrick, Gerard Thompson, Steve Bourton and Simon Foale.

Congratulations to Simon, whose name came out of the draw.

This month's puzzle is another I rate as hard, although hopefully there will be more correct answers from our budding troop of solvers. Please send your answers to me at johnmanches74@gmail.com. The Deadline Date is 22nd October. As usual, the winner will be drawn from all those with a clear, full, correct-first-time solution. The prize, which is open to all Surrey members, will be free entry to one of our county competitions for the winner and partner of choice.

New regulations about alerting and announcing have recently been introduced by the EBU. Alerting and announcing rules vary from one country to another – and in England they can be found in the EBU's Blue Book which is updated annually and published on the EBU website. The notes below are necessarily just a summary (assuming typical club Acol bidding) so please do consult the Blue Book if you need more detail.

One thing which hasn't changed is that in F2F games you never alert or announce your own bids – that's partner's job! (Only If playing on BBO it is the opposite - only self-alert or announce on BBO!)

If partner gets it wrong (alerting when they shouldn't – or vice versa!) then

- (a) If you are declarer or dummy at the end of the auction you should warn the opponents before they lead about the error. If needed the director can be called.
- (b) If you are a defender then there is nothing you can say about your partner's error until play is finished you then tell the opponents who once again can called the director if needed.

The Essentials of Announcing

Only apply on the first round of the bidding

Never announce anything about overcalls

The text in red is a significant change in the latest regulations

- The strength of an opening 1NT (no longer need to announce for 2NT)
- The strength of a natural opening 2-bid (eg "Weak" "Intermediate" "Strong & Forcing/Non-Forcing")
- An opening 1C or 1D bid if it could be less than a 3-card suit (eg "could be short as 2")
- Stayman response to a 1NT or 2NT bid
- All suit responses (below a jump to game) to an opening 1NT or 2NT should be announced if they are natural or show a specific suit ie

"Natural & Non-forcing" – "Natural & Forcing" – "Transfer to xxx"

• A natural jump response in a new suit (unless by a passed hand) should be announced (since it is just a question of strength shown) ie

"Natural & Non-forcing" – "Strong & Forcing" – "Strong & Game Forcing"

NB If you play a 2/1 system then 2-level responses may need to be announced as game-forcing and the 1NT response announced as "could be up to 11/bad 12"

<u>The Essentials of Alerting – doubles & redoubles</u>

Much Simplified!

No need to alert anything after the first round of the bidding Only alert a double or redouble if

- If a double of opening 1NT is not for penalties
- If a double of opening 1NT may have less than 15HCP (eg in 4th seat)
- A redouble if it is part of some rescue mechanism eg after 1NT is doubled ie to show a specific suit or initiate a "wriggle"

The Essentials of Alerting - bids

Any bid below the level of 3NT which is conventional – or may have some specific unexpected meaning.

In general terms it does no harm to over-alert and ensure that the opponents become aware that some of your favourite bidding sequences may have additional nuances to their meaning even though they are in principle natural. These are some examples -

Fit Jumps (a jump in a new suit showing some sort of fit with opener's first suit) are alertable because they have an unexpected additional element to their meaning even though they show the suit bid.

If playing inverted minors - the sequences 1D-2D and 1D-3D are alerted on the basis that the opponents may not realise that the former sequence is forcing (& eg may deny a 4-card major) while the second sequence may be much weaker than the opponents expect (ie not invitational).

In some versions of Jacoby 2NT over an opening 1 of a major there can be agreements that a sequence like 1H-(P)-3H shows a weak and pre-emptive hand - rather than an invitational one. It may be the same sort of hand which would jump to 3H over an intervening take out double for example 1H-(X)-3H. In the second sequence it is assumed to be general bridge knowledge (and therefore not alertable) that the 3H raise is pre-emptive. In the first sequence there isn't the same widespread knowledge and so the bid should be alerted.

Since most people play "promissory Stayman", when a partnership plays non-promissory Stayman (ie without any interest in the majors) a 2NT or 3NT rebid by responder after a Stayman enquiry becomes alertable (since the opponents may not otherwise realise).

In the context of "best behaviour @ bridge" as much as the niceties of the Blue Book consider it a courtesy to alert in these situations so as to let the opponents (whether experienced or not) know.

Have Your Say

Voice From the Deep (NGS 2)

When is a disaster not a disaster?

Well I never!

The EBU has just invited me to take the lift (well, more likely the back stairs) to the fourth floor of their prestigious NGS building. At this rate I'll soon be up in the executive suites and boardrooms at the top of the building rubbing shoulders with all those Aces and Kings; the very people whom I now propose to plagiarise.

For we can read in the EBU magazine of Great Bridge Disasters, and indeed your esteemed columns often carry tales from the great and the good making us privy to their bridge peccadillos, sins which perhaps would be better kept strictly within the confines of the confessional.

These misjudgements, to describe them generously, are very often of a highly sophisticated and intellectual nature, way beyond the grasp of us NGS 2s, 3s and 4s. For we are like those tail-end batsmen, not good enough to get an edge to the expert swing bowler's deliveries.

Our mistakes are far more ordinary and everyday; they're just straightforward blunders.

And so:-

There I was as dealer sitting North with 22 points and a 4-5-4-0 shape. In these circumstances our "system" demands an opening bid of 2C, in response to which partner's next obligatory bid is required to show either strength or weakness.

On this occasion partner failed to oblige ... and passed (!) as did both opponents. So I was playing in a suit contract with no trumps in my hand and only a measly contribution of same from partner.

Now in these circumstances it's sometimes the case that it takes a while before the penny drops with the opponents that something might be amiss. Not so this time. And so I made 7 tricks for 1 down.

A disaster! But not so fast ...

At another table North/South, free from the fetters of our "system" appear to have exchanged a couple of amiable suit bids before North concluded that the situation called for heroic deeds and that glory was at hand; and so bid 4C.

South, not recognising the beastly Gerber (and who can blame her!) and, reckoning that things were getting altogether quite out of hand, decided to stop the rot and so passed!

North there made 7 tricks as I had done but was three down as opposed to my one.

Our blushes were thus partially spared and our season ticket for bottom place was shred to ribbons - at least on that hand.

N.B. On the session as a whole we came bottom (again) anyway.

Richard Granville Ackland

Myths and Simultaneous Pairs

There is well established myth that all Simultaneous Pairs hands are fixed. I would go as far as calling this a conspiracy theory. From experience it doesn't matter what you say to people they just smile at you in a pitying way and to continue to believe the hands are fixed.

For the record, if you are playing in an EBU club then all hands dealt by a dealing machine come under the 'it must be a random deal' law. Yes, it is possible to get dealing machines to deal other types of hands, but these are usually used by teachers who want to set up hands to help teach a specific lesson. If it is a competition then it must be a random deal. Simultaneous Pairs events are competitions so the deals are random, in exactly the same way that your normal club session is. The only difference is that the same deal is used in other clubs on the same day.

My view of what happens to people who believe the hands are fixed goes as follows:

- a. The hand is fixed so,
- b. I must do something different in the bidding or play, then
- c. SEE I have a bad result. That SHOWS the hands are fixed.

I advise you to just treat the cards as a normal club deal, and enjoy them accordingly. You will also then be able to see how you (and others at your club) have done in the county or nationally.

Sadly, clubs do not seem to entering Simultaneous Pairs events as often as pre-pandemic. Those that schedule events as clubs say that their members don't really like them. The SCBA Dorin Salver Simultaneous Pairs is coming up in December, so why not encourage your club to enter. There are different deals for each day of the week, so clubs playing more than once a week can enter more than once. The SCBA charity (Queen Elizabeth Care & Rehabilitation Foundation) is well worth supporting, and the extra table money goes directly to the charity, there is no cost to the club to enter.

Julia Brough

All for one and One for all

Hip hip hooray!— three cheers for Mr Richard Granville Ackland and his article in the last Newsletter.

His erudite article amongst other things championed the "little Clubs" — the thousands around the country playing in small Village halls, in Church halls, in Schools and even in peoples' homes where the members play for the enjoyment and FUN of the game. Yes, there is competition and a desire be "top" on each and every hand but that is far outweighed by the love of playing this fabulous game with friends or colleagues in a friendly and social atmosphere.

This in no way denigrates the big grownup clubs, competitions and tournaments which feature in the Surrey Newsletter – we need you to keep the flag flying for the County - to encourage the next generation of top players and to enthuse and inspire all Surrey's Bridge Players.

But here I'm going to focus on Mr Granville Ackland's "below stairs" residents, and like Max Bygraves said, "I'm going to tell you a story". Well actually two stories.

The first is about **Westcott Bridge club**

Westcott is a small Surrey Village outside Dorking. It boasts a Pub, a couple of shops, a church AND A WEEKLY BRIDGE CLUB in the Village Hall (quaintly and wonderfully called the "Reading room" up till 12 months ago when the trustees decided to bring its name in to the 21st century)

Many years ago (that's how all the best stories start) a group of friends wanted to have a Bridge club for their own enjoyment. So, they commandeered a Garden Room in one of their gardens and for many years ran the WESTCOTT BRIDGE CLUB from that venue. However, like Topsy, the small group grew and grew until it become too big for the Garden Room and transferred to the Reading Room hall, just along the road.

There it continued to expand to 11-12 tables each week and its reputation as the Friendliest club in the area grew too.

Why was this? in an area where Clubs proliferated?

One of the reasons was because "winning" was (and remains) secondary to "playing" and because the 20 minute tea/Coffee break (with lovely chocolate biscuits) provided an opportunity to chat and socialise.

There was also an inclusive atmosphere of acceptance and welcome to players of all abilities.

THEN - BANG -ALONG CAME COVID AND LOCKDOWN

The amazing club management team quickly transferred the club to on-line games (we used Real Bridge) and continued to meet virtually every Monday evening – an huge achievement for the personnel who managed this transfer – we continue to be grateful.

Now we are back Face to Face with, like many Bridge Clubs, reduced numbers - only occasionally reaching the dizzy heights of 11 tables (age/illness (even some deaths sadly) /disinclination to be out in the dark evenings/discovery of "Bridge" on line" advantages — etc etc.)

BUT we have set out to redress this and have introduced BEGINNER AND IMPROVER lessons — running them ourselves — finding the venue, the teachers and the equipment and charging only enough to cover our costs so keeping the price of the lessons low(ish!) Of the 8 beginners who started in August 7 want to continue to Improvers lessons. And another set of lessons is in the pipeline. We will continue to mentor/supervise these new players in the club until they are ready to fly solo. Obviously, we hope that some of these will become members of the club but even if they don't, we have played our part in starting them on their Bridge journey.

The second story is another example.

The Fairway Bridge Group

I began my Bridge Career late (I was 60) with Adult Education lessons (Remember those?) and I found it very difficult! But our group was fabulous — we had such fun and laughed all the time which encouraged me to continue and also taught me that whatever standard I achieved I would always enjoy playing.

Some of us met outside the class to practice what we had been taught and now, 20 years later, this small group still meets at Dorking Golf Club on a Monday morning. The group grew and thrived – gaining members from other Ad Ed Classes wanting to practice their new skills and acting as a bridge between classes and clubs.

Now the AD ED classes are virtually non- existent and our raison d'etre is now to provide a welcome to all players who simply want a social group.

We play, we chat, we have a coffee break, sometimes lunch together, occasionally go out for a meal or to a theatre outing (Dorking Halls is just around the corner). Sometimes we have a duplicate session with set partners but the general ethos is that everyone is welcome and we all play with each other. My greatest pride is that last winter when I became very ill and unable to go out the group carried on continuing to provide the social and welcoming atmosphere of all the previous years.

This provides still a bridge for learners "before" or "as well as" joining a "club" and is an example of how the game can mean different things to different people.

As I said "All for one and One for all" or should it be "Vive la difference" – many players , many clubs and many differences

Ann Austin

It's all about the experts

To some extent this echos something Richard (Voice From the Deep) said in one of him previous articles. It seems that whatever level you play at, the rules always seem to be for those better than you.

Previously, I have complained bitterly that the EBU insist that on RealBridge (which is **supposed** to be like playing F2F). From what I can gather this is how the experts like it, and anyway, the decision has been made and therefore cannot changed. (But! I hear you say, surely there have just been lots of changes made to the Blue Book! Humph springs to mind).

Although, apparently, it can be changed. The EBU will be introducing screens to events. For those of you who don't know (and please skip forward a bit if you don't want to know), screens mean you can see one of your opponents only, and not your partner at all. The reasoning seems to be, there are people who haven't used screens and they can be a bit daunting, and it will be friendlier!

Well, I've had them inflicted on me once and I did not like them and it certainly did not feel friendlier. I just don't play at the level where this is likely to happen, and quite probably don't want to either. I predict an exodus from EBU online events where this is introduced.

Julia Brough

Congratulations

Surrey

Green Pointed Swiss Pairs

Joint Winners -

Desikan & Bhuma Rangarajan, and David Arundel & Andrew Bannock



Green Pointed Swiss Teams Peter Lee & Sally Brock, Barry Myers & Mike Scoltock

Victor Ludorum Elisabeth Bingham

Surrey League

Division 1 Frances Hinden, Peter Lee, Graham Osborne, Mike Scoltock

Division 2 Fionn O'Leary, Pat Bohan, Janet Cahm, Luiz Ronaldo de Oliveira Lima, Huaiyu Fan,

Dan O'Farrell

Division 3 Joint Winners: Chris Thorn, Jennifer Boud, Valerie Jackson, Martin Lister, Maria

Martin, Robert Twin

Joint Winners: Lawrence Penney, Sally Bradbury, Hiroko Canning, Sandra Cape, Neil

Higgins, Steve Leach, Christopher Pullan, Penny Webster-Smith

Division 4 Nigel Biggs, Allyson Biggs, Kevin Byrne, Kate Cottrell, Nashat Saridar

Lady Rose Cup Ian Swanson, Charles Chisnall, Bob James and Bill Hodgkiss (Team Swanson)

Lady Rose Plate Paul Chapman, Adrian Ring, Graham Pollack and Andrew Whittome (Team

Chapman)

Wanborough Cup Mayfield – Mike Scoltock & Peter Lee, Andrew Southwell & Richard Fedrick



Mary Edwards Selsdon – Tony Cherrett & Steve Irwin

County Pairs Cup William Clennell & Dominic Cooke

County Pairs Plate Hal Hazine & June Middleton

Mixed Pairs Janet Cahm & Pat Bohan

Schools Cup Henry Huang & Gijs Van Angeren, Adavya Goyal & Anango Prabhat

of St Pauls

Schools Minibridge Finley Collins & Reuben Kirubakaran of Tiffin

National

Peter Lee and Dave Norman for winning the National Pairs

This was Dave's first success in the National Pairs, but Peter's fifth, the previous four being with Bob Rowlands. We understand that five wins, which Bob also achieved, is the most anyone has achieved.

Christine Dyer and David Dawson for coming second in the Corwen Trophy

Christine and David were amongst the pairs selected to represent SCBA from the County Pairs.

Tim Chanter & Helen Wildsmith for coming second at Eastbourne in the Mixed Pairs

Two Hands from The Lady Rose Final

Hand 1: The Problem

You hold ♠ 8, ♥ Q, ♦ A Q J 8 5 2, ♠ K J 7 5 4

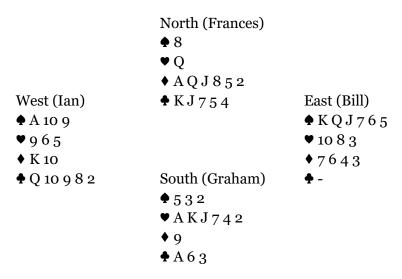
You are 67 IMPs down with 24 boards to play (we had pushed a little, played well and been lucky), when this hand came along.

At love all, 1st in hand you open a diamond, next hand bid 2S (weak to intermediate defined as 6-8 losers), and partner bid 3C showing values and at least 5 hearts (a good system, if a strain on the memory), the next hand bid 4S.

North (Frances)	East (Bill)	South (Graham)	West (Ian)
1♦	2♠*	3♣ **	4 ♠

^{*} weak to intermediate defined as 6-8 losers

Maybe you bid 5C and at the table partner raised to 6. As the 4S bidder, this was definitely what I wanted - the whole hand is below, positions transposed:



I (West) was lucky - 4S goes for 500 against best defence (6S and 1 ruff in W hand are all you can make), but with my poor diamond holding, I wanted the opponents to guess at the 5 level and it turned out to be a hand where their 8 card fit was not in hearts. I did not double 6C, despite holding a fairly certain 2 defensive tricks, in case there was a better place for them to play (6H goes for 300 doubled against best defence, although 6D can get out for 1 off). I was rewarded with 4 off. Lucky, yes - but my pressure bid of 4S left the opponents having to decide without clarity about one another's hands. I would like to add, we had had an exhibition of a really well bid hand early, with relay following relay - Frances and Graham know their stuff and the 3C bid looked the beginning of something similar.

Ian Swanson

^{**} showing values and at least 5 hearts

Hand 2: The Problem

Neither declarer found the best play in the contract below.

Hands		North		
		♠ A K 10 ;	3	
		4 4 2		
		4		
West	t			East
♦ 75	2			♦ J 6 4
♥8				♥ A K J 10 5 3
♦ K J	732			♦ 95
♠ A K 7 3	73	South		4 94
		♠ Q 9 8		
		♥ Q976		
		♦ A Q 10	8 6	
		∲ 5		
Bidding (all v	vul)			
East	South	West	North	
2♥ (weak)	Pass	Pass	3♠	

All pass

Lead

Pass

♦3 (4th highest)

3NT

The play went ♦3, ♦9, ♦10. The only chance to establish 9 tricks is to make 4 in clubs, so the nine must drop in 3 rounds. The play involves leading and continuing clubs to knock out the ♠AK using dummy's ♠AK as entries. However, as West has a singleton opposite the weak 2♥, the chances are high that East has the ♥AK. Accordingly, West has the ♠AK and also on the play to the first trick a diamond suit headed by the KJ. Then a diamond through declarer by East having been put on lead in hearts to first cash the ♥AK would be fatal. 5 tricks are established for the defenders before 9 for declarer.

Rewind to the first trick. Win the ♦9 with the Queen! Then how can West on winning the first high club not continue with a diamond as partner is "marked" with the ♦10?

Bill Hodgkiss

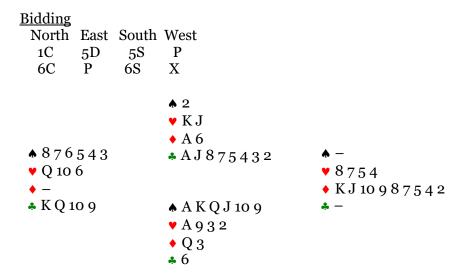
Club News

Tudor and Guildford

Congratulations to Kate and Julia for coming top in the Thursday Summer Sim Pairs in July.

They both get £50 prize money from the EBU!





South to make 6S doubled Lead CK

At first sight 12 tricks seem to be there: 6 trump tricks, 4 heart tricks (with a successful finesse) and 2 Aces give you the 12 tricks needed. The 6-0 spade break adds some spice however as all South's spades are needed to draw West's trumps. The question then becomes one of how to get back to hand after a successful heart finesse.

The answer is fairly simple when you see it, pretty much impossible if you don't. On one of South's spades discard DA from dummy. Then, after Jack and King of hearts lead D6 to South's Queen. What can East do? If he ducks. South's DQ wins and gives the entry needed for 2 more heart tricks, if he wins with DK, the enforced red suit lead that must then follow brings the same result.

This month's winner is **Simon Foale**.

Charity Events

5 OCTOBER GUILDFORD CAFE BRIDGE

GUILDFORD CAFE BRIDGE

in aid of

The Fountain Centre at St Luke's Cancer Centre

in the

Royal Surrey County Hospital

We would like to make this Eleventh Guildford Cafe Bridge the biggest event so far.

Please sign up now

Guildford Café Bridge in aid of The Fountain Centre

Now accepting bookings

https://www.brianbridge.net/cafe/

Meena Samani, who runs the Fun 2 Play and Surrey and Friends Bridge Clubs has scheduled online lessons beginning on Thu 5 Oct at 9:30 am.

The lessons are on Zoom and involve highly participative quizzes and play at a learning table on BBO, where everyone can see the action at the table and players are rotated in and out, so everyone gets a chance to bid and play.

The overall themes are Modern Competitive Bidding, additional Key Conventions, Counting and Card Placement and improving Defence.

If you are interested in one or more topics, but cannot make it in person, please just register for it and the full recording (including play at the table), quiz plus notes will be emailed to you. Booking form and more details can be found

on https://www.bridgewebs.com/fun2play/. You do not need to book as a partnership. Please email meena_samani@hotmail.com if you have any questions.

The draft schedule of topics are below and are flexible, depending on a what the majority of participants want, after a review of a 'standard' convention card, to understand gaps.



More advanced Bridge topics Draft Schedule of Topics 5 Oct – 8 Dec

- 23 Nov: The thoughtful Opening Lead, and Third Hand Play
- ❖ 30 Nov: Attitude and Count Signals
- 7 Dec: Different discarding systems Counting in Defence



And finally.....

The next newsletter will come out towards the end of December. So, please send me any club news, personal stories and photographs for the next edition. Is your club having a charity event you would like to tell people about? Let me know. Are you planning any club celebrations? Send me pictures.

<u>Julia Brough</u> Editor

