

### In this edition

- Introduction
- Surrey Events and Results
- Doubles – What Your Teacher Didn't Tell You
- Confessions Corner
- Prize Double Dummy Puzzle # 9
- Start up Services for BBO and RealBridge; and Bridge Lessons for Intermediate+ Players
- Club News
- Charity Update

### Introduction

[Tim Warren](#)

Welcome to our latest newsletter, with a mix of humorous articles, news, and our latest Double Dummy puzzle. We have two new authors, but there's lots of room for more – if you'd like to write up a hand, maybe share an amusing/painful disaster, do let us know.

The bridge world will emerge very different in some ways from what we all knew and loved before, and within the Surrey team we've been working on what we should be doing to help the game, and our members and clubs, in this new era. Having already made our leagues and cups free to enter, this year – and been chuffed to see a 50% or more increase in entries – we're planning to increase our focus on finding new players, putting on events for those of NGS 9 and below, and helping those at all levels who wish to improve. If you'd like to help us do this, I'd love to [hear from you](#).



From all of us at SCBA, we wish you a merry Christmas and a safe and happy 2021.

### Surrey Events and Results

#### *Forthcoming Surrey Events*

- **Mixed Pairs** event on **31st January** – for further details and registration form, please click [here](#).
- **County Pairs** at a date to be arranged in **March**. Please keep an eye on our website.

Surrey recorded very impressive results in the following two prestigious events:

#### *Tollemache 2020/21*

The qualifier for the "Tolley" took place on RealBridge over the weekend of 21st/22nd November. There were 27 counties participating and Surrey finished in third place.

The top eight teams will play in the final, which is due to be held over the weekend of 20th/21st February 2021.

Congratulations to the Surrey team of:

- Frances Hinden & Graham Osborne
- Martin Garvey & Jeffrey Allerton
- Charles Chisnall & Bob James
- Richard Granville & Graham Sadie
- Peter Lee & Mike Scoltock

To see an interesting hand, detailed by Charles Chisnall, from the Surrey team, please click [here](#).

## Metropolitan Cup

The county entered three teams for the Metropolitan Cup which was played between the Home Counties on Sunday 29th November.

The 'A' division was won by Middlesex, with Surrey finishing in sixth place.

The 'B' division was **won by the Surrey team**, followed by Berks & Bucks, then London.

The 'C' division was won by Kent, with Surrey finishing fourth equal.

Congratulations to the Surrey team of:

- Andrew Mann & Gerard Thompson
- Peter Hardymont & Malcolm Bricknell
- Tony Cherrett & Steve Irwin
- Mike Ellis & Paul Mumford

To see a hand, detailed by Peter Hardymont, from the Surrey team, please click [here](#).

## Doubles – What Your Teacher Didn't Tell You

John Manches



*More humorous articles like this are very welcome.*

Beginners know that there are four suits. No Trumps, which is a sort of fifth suit, are often avoided for fear that the opposition will run their 8-card suit against you, while the vagaries of Doubling are for a long time a total mystery. Learning these takes years and distinguishing between them takes centuries more. Guidance is clearly needed.

1. **Take Out Double**, sometimes referred to as the Sputnik double if you wish to convey the impression of deep expert knowledge to other players who have never heard of it. This of course only means "bid, partner", but is often confused with the Penalty Double ("don't bid, partner") or the Optional Double (a mixture of Take out and Penalty when you yourself don't know what you mean).
2. **Lead Indicating Double (LID)** this is a two-way double, sometimes used to express disdain when your opponents are employing some subtle convention, often for their own enjoyment and everyone else's irritation. However, it also serves as a way of giving additional insult by asking partner to actually lead the very suit in which your opponents have just made their clever artificial bid.

Be cautious, however, as the LID is better used when you are sure your opponents did not actually mean the bid they have just made. Experience has shown that it doesn't work very well if:

- (a) your opponents did mean it after all and just pass;
- (b) your partner misunderstands and thinks he/she is supposed to bid something; or
- (c) you find that it is actually you who are on lead anyway.



3. **Duty Double** ("it doesn't sound as if the bidding's right, so it's my duty to double on principle"). Also known as the Principle Double.
4. **Cooperative Double**. This speaks for itself, being applied when you have so little that partner clearly has lots and will surely get the contract off, but is too well mannered to offend anyone by doubling him/herself.
5. **Unnerving Double**. Usually enjoyed by more experienced players to scare the pants off a beginner who unwittingly finds him/herself as declarer. This type of double is most effective in face-to-face bridge when delivered very loudly and, if you can manage it, with a slightly supercilious sneer at the same time. An online version is under development.
6. **Spite Double**. Usually applied with one of three meanings: (i) to show general disdain; (ii) when you simply don't like declarer; or (iii) when you want to pay declarer back for doubling you in your own last contract (which went off).

Exercise caution in applying the Spite Double though, since it of course invites declarer to retaliate with the Spite Redouble. This guarantees that someone at the table is going to be immensely satisfied with the outcome.

**How to Snatch Victory From the Jaws of Defeat**

*Editor's Note: part of this article segues nicely with John's article on doubles, above. Perhaps John's next version will add a new category of double along the lines of "even though you know you're right, bite your tongue and just don't double" to his list of doubles*

	♠ J 7 6 5 4 ♥ 10 5 2 ♦ A K ♣ 9 6 4	
♠ K 3 2 ♥ 9 7 ♦ 4 ♣ A K Q 10 8 5 2		♠ - ♥ A K Q J 8 4 ♦ Q J 7 6 5 2 ♣ J
	♠ A Q 10 9 8 ♥ 6 3 ♦ 10 9 8 3 ♣ 7 3	

This hand comes from a normal club evening session on BBO.

E	S	W	N	Note
1♥	-	3NT*	-	* Gambling 3NT – not having spotted partner's opening bid
6NT*	-	-	X	* Well, I'm providing six tricks for starters
-	-	7♣*	X	* Damage limitation exercise
7♥*	X	All pass		* I bet my hearts are better than your clubs

South was quite happy to lead ♠A, which of course was ruffed in hand and then 13 tricks wrapped up.

Once West missed partner's opening, every bid was entirely logical and the whole thing had an awful inevitability about it – including the defensive disaster to round it off. But having said that, if East had noticed partner's bid, a making 6♣ or 6♥+1 should have been bid. So this was just a roundabout way of getting an outright top.

**Prize Double Dummy Puzzle #9**

[John Manches](#)

With Tim having taken over the role of SCBA Chairman the Double Dummy corner seems to have fallen into my own lap. It's amazing how much easier the puzzles are when you know the answer! I find this one particularly appealing. The hand comes from a Selsdon B team match in the 2019 NICKO (National Inter-Club KO). Thank you to Andy Poole for providing us with it.

A hand is said to be played double dummy if everyone can choose the cards they play with full knowledge of all four hands. For instance, declarer need never lose a finesse to a singleton King offside, because it's clear to all the Ace will drop the King.

I'm rating it as TOUGH.

	♠ 4 ♥ A K Q 4 ♦ A 6 5 3 2 ♣ K 7 2	
♠ 10 9 6 5 ♥ 10 9 5 3 ♦ J 7 ♣ Q 6 4	Contract 6♥ by S Lead = ♠10	♠ K Q J 8 ♥ 2 ♦ K 10 8 ♣ J 10 9 8 5
	♠ A 7 3 2 ♥ J 8 7 6 ♦ Q 9 4 ♣ A 3	

With ♦K onside 6♦ is easy, but you, South, find yourself playing in 6♥. West leads ♠10, which you win in hand, and continue with a low trump, West covering with ♥9. How do you make the contract?

Please send your entries to [johnmanches74@gmail.com](mailto:johnmanches74@gmail.com), by the deadline of 1 January 2021.

Names of all those submitting correct first time solutions will be put into Tim's Morris hat and the winner selected randomly. 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.

## Start up Services for BBO and RealBridge; and Bridge Lessons for Intermediate+ Players

Meena Samani

There is light at the end of the tunnel for Covid – however, it is unlikely that we will get back to face-to-face Bridge quite yet, and players have also got used to playing online, even many of those who were initially sceptical. The issue is / was that despite online Bridge not being quite as sociable, it was the only way to get a Bridge fix. Over time, players have been able to play online sociably with friends, sometimes with Zoom or Whatsapp running in parallel. Team matches online is also a very popular format.

Now, there is RealBridge, which offers video and voice interaction, with the ability to switch off your camera if you are still in your jim jams!

The future involves both face-to-face and online Bridge. Many clubs are contemplating a mix of sessions, even after we return to normal.

I have been running the Fun 2 Play Bridge club since April and the Fun and Friendly Bridge club more recently, on BBO. We have helped several clubs (5+) and charity drives to go online with a step-by-step approach, which needs minimum resource from the club and am an experienced BBO Director who regularly hosts and runs online duplicates. Most of the clubs have managed to go online within 7-10 days of expressing interest in starting up.

There is also recognition that there is a technical hurdle for some players, and I have been able to support such players through a step-by-step process of obtaining a BBO user name, logging on and then joining a table for some familiarisation followed by a real duplicate. Originally reluctant players are now enjoying playing online regularly – in tables of 4, club duplicates with players they know well and Surrey and EBU games. Children in Need SIMS were a great success online recently.

If a club – whether EBU affiliated or not, a Bridge club within a Golf club, a moderately large U3A Bridge group, etc would like to know how to start, please contact me on 07740 053683. To play and experience an online duplicate in a supportive setting, please let me know if you would like to try out any of the sessions I run.

For intermediate+ players who are looking to do some Bridge lessons during the winter months, on Wednesday mornings, please see the list of topics [here](#). To book one or more sessions, please click [here](#).

The overall themes are Duplicate Tactics, Declarer Play and a couple of conventions – and to help build a robust partnership system card.

There is some hope that we will see each other across the Bridge table soon as well as being able to dip into online play whenever the mood takes us – let's embrace this new way of playing our favourite game!

*Editor's Note: these are great innovations and we are very keen to support all efforts to bring clubs online, introduce more people to the game and develop existing players. If you or your club would like to submit articles, please do so –for email address, please click [here](#).*

## Club News

### Caterham Bridge Club

Caterham have had a busy time recently.

We have been helping clubs get online. We are supporting three clubs at present. If you would like your club to have online sessions please give us a call to see how we can help. We will help your players to get going online and will run your first session for free.

We also have a new initiative to get players online. We will provide technical support and advice for free to get players online. Also if you live in East Surrey we will loan equipment to anyone who wants to try playing online before committing to new hardware.

We are trying to arrange a Sim pairs in March to support Marie Curie and possibly Cancer Research UK. If there are any clubs interested in participating please contact us.

At Caterham we have found many partnerships have been revived by the online environment. We have two brothers playing together who had not played together for thirty years one brother lives in Australia. We have a mother and son who have just started playing together, again the mother lives in South Africa. We have had members playing from Tokyo and Dorset. Also several players are now playing with partners that are not local as well as members that had moved away who can now join us. Perhaps you know someone who has lost touch with your club who could now play.

Assuming we can get at least eight participants Tony Cherrett will start a beginning bridge course in the New Year. If you know anyone interested in learning this great game please refer them to us.

Please get in touch if any of the above is of interest. E-mail [tonycherrettbridge@gmail.com](mailto:tonycherrettbridge@gmail.com) 07712936279.

### **Selsdon Bridge Club**

Selsdon bridge club are now running a session on Thursday evenings with Caterham BC. We are seeing an increased number of tables each week. We would be happy for others to join us.

To keep in touch with members we are holding a Christmas Zoom party on 15<sup>th</sup> December at 19:00 for all club members including those that are not yet playing online. If you have a connection with Selsdon please come and join us.

## **Charity Update**

### **Tony Cherrett's TASK 500 Marathon**

Last year Caterham Bridge Club raised £6,061 for Tandridge Academic Support for Kenya (TASK) - a registered charity. Since 2012, money was raised from selling refreshments at our bridge sessions and other fundraising events at the club.

TASK is currently supporting 44 children through their high school education, with 13 new students who started in January 2020. Some students who receive support then go on to study at university where they get full bursaries or scholarships. To ensure our donations are only spent in the most effective way, we only pay direct to the school. To select the students TASK works direct with local teachers in the area of Limuru, which is a rural town about 35 kilometres northwest of Nairobi. From January 2018, the Kenyan government started to pay tuition fees for all high school students attending state schools. The students still have to pay for their lunch, buy books, school uniforms, pay for Parents/Teachers Association and development funds. TASK also pays for boarding fees for some of the students.

I played 500 boards over the week to gain sponsorship and donations for TASK. Players have been very generous and we have raised over £4,000 so far.

Many thanks to all the clubs we played at and all of my partners.

The week started on Friday with Tom Townsend 68.7%. He went through the hands afterwards, which was very well received. He also analysed one of the hands played in the Telegraph (it's worth buying the paper for his column alone). In the evening Phil Harris and I achieved the best score of the week, 70.65%, at South London Oshwal Bridge club (somewhat of a disappointment as our only previous result was over 86%). On Saturday afternoon I played with Rosemary Linington and we won the Dorset online pairs with the best NGS result of the week with +13.50. On Monday and Tuesday I played with Nick Sandqvist who was incredibly supportive and great fun to play with. I have never learned so much from a session of bridge than when I played with Paul Hackett on Wednesday evening. On Sunday and Wednesday starting at 23:15 I played with Andy Poole at a very welcoming Canberra bridge club. Thursday I played with Gordon Rainsford who joined us afterwards and gave us some insights into the wider bridge world. And my NGS even rose by over 1% during the week.

## ***Erica Currie & Richard Currie Charity Pairs***

Farnham Bridge Club, the Bourne Bridge Club and 3 Counties Bridge Club combined forces to run an innovative online charity pairs event, in aid of their local Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice, and in memory of two very special members of the Farnham bridge community.

All three clubs converted their "BCL virtual club" evenings in the first week of December into heats for the charity event. On the afternoon of Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December, the top 10 pairs from the combined heats competed in a main finals, other pairs being invited to compete in a plate competition, that was run in parallel.

In total, over 50 pairs participated in the heats, and £1,433 (including gift aid of £213) was been raised for Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice, the most that this event has raised in its many years of running as a face-to-face competition.

Congratulations to:

- **Ian Lewis & Barbara Regan**, winners of their heat and winners of the overall competition and Finals trophy. Ian and Barbara, you are hugely popular winners. Ian has done so much to help members of our bridge playing community transition to playing online bridge in its various forms during this extended period of no face-to-face bridge; we all owe him a debt of thanks!
- **Hari Patel and Eric Cohen**, very worthy winners of the Plate.

A big thank you also to Nick Justice of BCL, who set up special facilities for the competition, at no cost to us, to support this charitable cause. A "Zoom" virtual presentation of trophies will be organised in due course, probably early in the New Year.

## **Next Newsletter (and our Library)**

Please [email](#) us news, views, interesting hands, and what is happening at your club. Similarly, please let us have any comments to any of this newsletter or any other bridge matter, please contact the Committee, through the website.

Previous editions of our Newsletter are available on our website – please click [here](#). These are available to all, not just members of SCBA.

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas from SCBA.

