

Introduction

[Tim Warren](#)

Welcome to our October newsletter. Our prize puzzle this time is a gentle one: if you haven't entered before, why not give it a go? You can see how we've set out solutions to all our previous posers on [our Puzzles page](#) – #4 and #6 are good examples of how you might approach it.

In line with our aim to help and encourage our members, we've just put on a special free-of-charge event at Wimbledon BC to celebrate the success of those in Surrey who gained the most Masterpoints in various categories of the EBU's annual ladder last year. [Sally Brock](#), one of England's leading players and teachers, led a review of the boards played and provided some insights into becoming a better player. More on this in the next edition.

We know that many people aren't yet ready to play F2F. We'd intended to put on a hybrid F2F/online event in November, with the same boards being played in both parts, but unfortunately it looks like that's unable to happen. Watch this space...

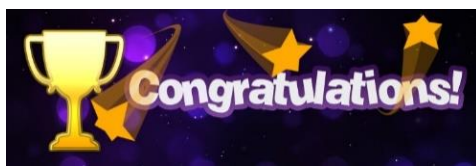
Please remember that we're always keen to hear from you with content ideas – if you'd like to write up a hand, maybe share an amusing/painful disaster, as some have already done, please do let us know.

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Surrey Results and Competitions

Results



Surrey Green Point Weekend winners are:

Pairs: Gordon Lessells and Ying Piper

Team: Will Roper and Louise Selway, Kay Preddy and Norman Selway

Forthcoming Surrey Competitions

With so many players still only playing online, we're waiting until next year before organising any F2F events. The first one planned will be the **County Pairs final on 27 March**. The heats for this event will, however, remain online.

Garden Cities

Please note that clubs will be asked whether they wish to form a team of eight for the Garden Cities qualifier online in January. More information can be found [here](#).

Match vs Yorkshire – Hills & Dales II

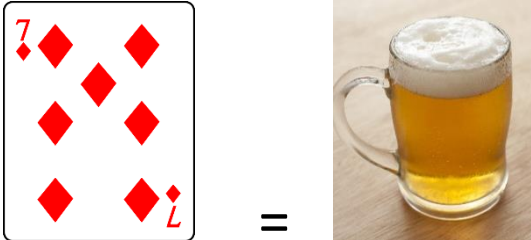
Back in March, we had the inaugural Hills & Dales online match with Yorkshire, the latter running out comfortable winners. 9 September saw the return match, with Surrey wresting the trophy back 45-35. Fionn O'Leary, captain of the B team, presents an article on the match below.

SCBA Leagues

We have a total of 53 teams playing in five divisions in the league for the 2021/22 season, a small increase over last year, which was itself 50% higher than the 2019 entry of 34. The league has been restructured to provide a clearer process for both promotion to and relegation from the subdivisions of the three highest divisions. Consequently, there is an increase in the number of matches to be played in each of the subdivisions of Divisions 2 and 3, which we hope will lead to a greater sense of participation, interest and momentum. The same is true for Divisions 4 and 5, where the teams are scheduled to play each other twice in Home and Away fixtures.

A Profitable Beer Card

Richard Granville & Peter Lee



For some reason that we have been unable to fathom, the ♦7 is known colloquially as the 'beer card' - if you win the last trick with the (non-trump) ♦7 you can claim a free beer (click [here](#) for definition). We've seen a number of declarers play a hand to achieve this, but only when the order of play makes no difference to the result.

In this hand from the 2020/21 Online Crockfords Cup final the ♦7 was worth IMPs as well as beer:

Love All, Dealer West

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

At one table the auction was as follows:

	Lee		Scoltock
South	West	North	East
	Pass	1♣	1NT
Double	2♥	Double	all pass

NS were playing a 15–17 point 1NT opening with 5 card majors, so North started with 1♣. Mike Scoltock reckoned that a 1NT overcall was more constructive than 1♦, but this met with a sharp double from South. Peter Lee's rescue into 2♥ showed both majors and North's penalty double closed the auction.

North found the best lead of a trump, the standard opening lead when the opponents have few high cards. Peter won with dummy's ♥Q and with nothing better to do decided to set up a diamond trick by leading ♦K. North won with ♦A and returned a second trump to dummy's ♥A.

Peter discarded a spade on ♦Q and, not wanting to shorten his trumps, tried the effect of a low club from dummy. This seemed not to turn out well when South played low and North won with ♣Q.

At this point the defence can easily win eight of the last nine tricks by cashing ♥KJ followed by ♠Q and the rest of the spades. Declarer can ruff the fourth round but South claims the last two tricks with ♣A and his last spade (or diamond). (He couldn't have won the last trick with ♦7 because he had signalled with it at trick 2.)

In practice North made the strange switch to a spade without playing off his trumps. He discarded a club on the third spade and overruffed declarer on the fourth round. North could still have achieved four down by cashing his remaining trump and switching to diamonds, but he unaccountably switched to clubs and Peter was able to make a club trick as well as his long trump.

Three down for -500 still wasn't a great result, saving a non-vulnerable game that went off at two tables, but let's see what happened at the other table:

Granville		Sadie	
South	West	North	East
	Pass	1♣	1NT
Double	2♣	pass	pass
Double	2♥	double	all pass

The auction started in the same way before, but this time West instigated rescue manoeuvres with 2♣. Graham Granville and Richard Sadie play that after they double 1NT for penalties their first double is for takeout. Richard therefore passed and allowed Graham to make a takeout double. West's 2♥ showed at least 4-5 in the majors and Graham's penalty double closed the auction.

The first three tricks were as before, except that when declarer led ♦K from dummy Richard followed suit with ♦2 to show an even number (reverse count). After winning the second trump in dummy, declarer decided to enter hand with a diamond ruff to lead a club towards ♣J. He didn't cash dummy's ♦Q first because he thought that this card would help to retain control if spades broke 4-3. Richard followed suit with ♦J as a suit preference signal for spades.

After winning trick 5 with ♣A Richard switched to ♠6 (He knew that Graham held ♠Q because he would have been too weak for a 1♣ opening without it). Graham played off his winning trumps, on which Richard discarded ♣3 followed by a deceptive ♦9. He won the next four tricks in spades and at trick 12 declarer had to choose between discarding ♦Q or ♣K from dummy. He'd thought long and hard during the early play and under time pressure made the mistake of discarding ♦Q, after which Richard was able to claim the last trick with ♦7.

Declarer finished five down for -1100. 12 IMP (and a beer) for our team.

Match vs Yorkshire – Hills & Dales II

Fionn O'Leary

On 9 September, four Surrey teams gathered on RealBridge for a friendly challenge match against four teams from Yorkshire for the 'Hills and Dales' trophy. With teams at various NGS levels, the intention was to widen the opportunity for players to represent Surrey, beyond the regular cohort. This was somewhat of a revenge match, with Yorkshire having won the first quite comprehensively and Tim Warren, Surrey's Chairman, reminded us of this more than once. No pressure then.

Here is a hand from the match (rotated for convenience) where our team mates bid and made a nice slam with some careful play.

Dealer N, NS Vul

♠ 8	KJ543
♥ KQJT92	A853
♦ AT84	Q
♣ J7	AK8

As West, you arrive in 6♥, partner opening 1♠ and then agreeing hearts via a very informative 4♦ splinter on the way. On North's lead of ♠6, an outline plan is quickly apparent. A spade loser and ruff three diamonds in dummy. This means you cannot draw trumps immediately and also need to be careful managing entries.

Alas dummy's ♠J loses to the Q and South returns the ♠9. It seems straightforward to ruff and get on with our plan. But why is South returning a spade? The auction suggested a club lead, but North declined this. Why would he consider a spade more attractive?

The most likely option is that the lead was a singleton, so you ruff high in hand and breathe a sigh of relief when North indeed shows out. The winning line is: Cash ♦A, and ruff your three small diamonds in dummy, coming back to hand firstly with a trump (both follow), then high spade ruffs. Draw the last trump and cash two top clubs. With trumps 2-1, this only fails on a 7-1 diamond split. +980 safely clocked up and onto the next hand.

At the end of a pleasant evening, Surrey came out victorious 45 VPs to 35. Good luck to the next group of 16 players to represent Surrey in 2022.

Prize Double Dummy Puzzle #12

[John Manches](#)

Editor's note: We thought it might help to show the solution to the last Double Dummy Puzzle below, which was challenging to say the least! If you'd like us to provide solutions in each subsequent issue, do please let me know.

Double Dummy Puzzle #12

I promised an easier puzzle this month. I rate this one gentle.

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

Contract: 6♠ by S
Lead ♠4

Please send your answers to me at Johnmanches74@gmail.com. The deadline is 21 November. Names of all those with a clear, full, correct-first-time solution will be put into Tim's Morris hat and the winner selected randomly. Entries are very welcome from all, but the prize will be limited to those of NGS:J and below. The prize will be free entry to one of our county competitions for the winner and partner of choice.

Solution to Puzzle # 11 and Winner

June's Puzzle No 11 (which was indeed single dummy, so apologies for the mis-titling) was rated fiendish and did indeed seem to prove so. **Congratulations** to John Dagnall (winner) and Gerard Thompson who were the only two entrants to give correct solutions. The solution, heralded as a Count Squeeze, is worth looking at for the more advanced players who like a horrendously complex challenge, so here it is:

Solution – Puzzle No 11

This puzzle is essentially about the club suit, which can be brought in successfully for the 13th trick if you can work out the club layout. Of course, you have to assume clubs break 4-1, and diamonds 4-2 or worse.

Win the lead in hand, and to tricks 2-5, cash ♣K, ♥K and ♦KQ in some order. Now cash ♦A. At this point, you know the diamond distribution.

For tricks 7-9, play ♠AKQ, discarding ♥J109. You now know the spade distribution, too.

Take ♥A, discarding ♦10 from dummy (unless at any point the ♦J has been discarded, in which case ♦10 becomes your 13th trick).

With three cards remaining, you have one of two situations:

1. If ♦J has not been discarded, the defender holding it can have at most two clubs.
T11: Play the high club to this defender's left and
T12: Either drop ♣J or take the marked finesse if the defender holding ♦J shows out at T11.
2. After you discard ♦10 at trick 10, South discards ♦J.
All is revealed! You already know how many diamonds and spades South started with, and for him to be able to discard ♦J on ♥A, he must be out of hearts. Having seen the number of hearts he played in tricks 1-9, you know the number of hearts he started with. So you can work out how many clubs he started with and, therefore, which defender (if either) started with 4 clubs. Drop ♣J or take the marked finesse for your 13th trick.

The solution to Puzzle #11, and all (much easier) previous puzzles can be found by clicking [here](#)

Returning to F2F

Karen Murphy

During the long months of lockdown, myself, like many other keen Bridge players found comfort in online Bridge. This helped to pass the hours and is something I will always be grateful for. However, I was keen to get back, to see other players and socialise again.

Double jabbed and feeling reassured by the cautious approach of the local Bridge club, I took my first tentative steps in August and have never looked back. Others, it seems, are also enthusiastic about returning. At first numbers were low at the club, but have now grown, with 10 tables on a good afternoon.

The club's approach was that all returning members should be double jabbed, windows and doors should remain open, frequent washing of hands and carrying your own bidding boxes. The last measure has recently been dropped. This, as we are all touching the same cards, seems to me to make sense. Some players wear masks, but it is personal choice.

Playing face to face seemed strange at first. There were many things to think about that I had taken for granted playing online. Counting and sorting cards, entering scores, and making sure you didn't revoke or lead out of turn had now to be considered.

However, to me there are lots of advantages. Seeing my partner and opponents face to face allowed us to congratulate or commiserate easily and quickly. The refreshment break chat and the one after the session outside, was non-threatening and supportive and so much better than online. Online it seems less easy to communicate, and typed messages can be misinterpreted. Additionally, I once again felt part of a community. Seeing friendly, familiar faces enjoying their game was something I had greatly missed greatly during lockdown.

More recently several other clubs have now reopened and welcomed players back. Last night I attended another club that opened their doors for the first time. I asked others how they felt to be back and most replied very positively. Although one player said they found the noise and general hubbub when moving difficult to get used to, for most "excited" and "it's great" seemed the general view. For me, as Marvin Gaye sang, "ain't nothing like the real thing" and I'm so pleased to be back.

Wooden Bridge

Tim Warren

When you read articles by bridge experts, in the EBU Magazine or elsewhere, they all say "don't just play woodenly, listen to the bidding". They'll set out some fine example where declarer was able to pinpoint who's-got-what and bring home the bacon. So why doesn't it work for me?

In a social-but-taken-seriously online session last month, I was West on this board:

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

NS Vul

Me Partner

1NT (2♠*) 3NT 2♠ = Spades & a minor

On North's lead of ♠K, the contract doesn't look too bad. If North has a diamond honour, I'll aim to take two spades, three in each minor, and at least one heart. But no, South holds both diamond honours. He returns a spade and North turns out to have started with ♠KQ10-to-five.

It's not too late in the session, so I'm still paying attention, and notice that North has two diamonds and that all follow to three rounds of clubs. On the third round of diamonds, North discards the final club, so he must have been 5-2-2-4. So far he's only shown up with 6 points (♠KQ, ♣J) for his Vul vs NV overcall, so I'm pretty confident the situation after nine tricks is:

	♠10 x	
	♥K x	
	♦-	
♠-		7
♥Q 9 6		A 7
♦7		A

Needing three of the last four tricks, I lead my last diamond towards dummy, on which I can see North is going to have a difficult discard.

North chooses to part with a spade, so I lead dummy's ♠7 to throw him in to lead away from the ♥K. It was mainly a question of keeping my eyes open and wits about me, but still I sit back feeling chuffed with myself.

But no, North's chosen a magnificent moment to make a – what he later called 'mad' – 2♦ overcall Vul vs NV on:

♠K Q 10 5 4
♥10 5
♦4 2
♣J 10 9 5

So he's not thrown in at all, and I lose his heart return to East's ♥K.

All along, I could just have woodenly played ♥A and led towards ♥Q for my ninth trick.

By the way, kudos to North for discarding a spade at trick 10. If he'd – woodenly! – thrown a small heart, I'd have had no option but to play ♥A and another, which would have worked.

The lesson is clear: ignore the bidding, it'll just lead you astray. Huh, what do those experts know, anyway?

Teachers' Top Tips

Duplicate Tactics online course and practice

Meena Samani is planning on running an online Duplicate Tactics course from January 2022 - on Wednesday mornings at 9:45 am.

The course encourages building a partnership convention card/tick list when playing with a new partner, adding items gradually as players progress through the course.

Some of the topics covered will include:

- McKendrick convention
- Jacoby 2NT
- Competitive Bidding: Unassuming Cue bids and support raises
- Escaping from 1NT Doubled

- How to interfere over opponent's 1NT
- Defence - Signals, Discards, Suit Preference Signals
- Duplicate Tactics topics such as Scoring and Hand Evaluation, Which Game, Which Slam, To Sacrifice or Not, Part Score Battle

Please click [here](#) to see the Draft Programme and [here](#) to register interest in the lessons.

Twinned Towns RealBridge Invitation

RealBridge is providing a two-month promotion, where two clubs in towns or cities that are twinned ('sister cities') can play a joint event for free. For example, Koblenz in Germany is twinned with Norwich in the UK; Trondheim in Norway is twinned with Darmstadt in Germany.

The hope is that this will provide an opportunity for you to meet RealBridge users from other countries, and perhaps create lasting friendships.

This is how it works:

- Clubs should pick a town or city in another country, that is officially twinned with your town or city. If you don't know what your twin towns are, Wikipedia has a list: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lists_of_twin_towns_and_sister_cities
- Contact a bridge club there that uses RealBridge (or even a club that doesn't yet use RealBridge).
- If you have identified a town, but you don't know which bridge clubs there are using RealBridge, ask Realbridge, who will be happy to put you in touch with someone. (The club list on their website does not show all the clubs that use RealBridge.)
- Arrange a joint event with the other club. The event should involve the members of the two clubs playing in the same event. It can be pairs or teams, or a session of each.
- Tell RealBridge the session link, so that they don't charge you for it. It will be helpful if you also put 'Twin City' in the session name (the yellow band at the top of the RealBridge window).
- Perhaps tell your local newspaper about it. When clubs in Cheltenham (UK) and Göttingen (Germany) did this recently, it was covered in the local press in both cities.
- Play, have fun, and tell RealBridge how it went.

If your town is lucky enough to be twinned with more than one other town, you are welcome to arrange events with more than of them.

Please participate in up to four sessions in total, before 1 December 2021.

Good luck and have fun.

Throwing Down the Gauntlet

[Tim Warren](#)

Editor's note: I'm sure I can beat this (ie get lower points)! Can you?

In a recent online game with friends, covering ten hands – occupying two hours' play; you can see they're mainly just an excuse to talk – I worked out I'd held a total of only 67 points across the whole session. Obviously, I'm used to getting very few points, but even for me that was an astonishingly low average.

I throw down the gauntlet. Have you had a session where you averaged less than 6.7 points, over at least ten hands? Or maybe – I find it difficult to imagine, but perhaps it does happen – you've had a huge average over a session? It's just for fun, no proof needed. No prizes, either, but we'll announce who's claimed what in the next newsletter.

Please email responses to [Tim Warren](#) by the end of 2021.

BridgeWhiz

Surrey Schools, Parents and Pupils (School Years 6 to 13) are invited to participate in a trial of teaching Bridge Online to pupils, called [BridgeWhiz](#). There will be a Free Online Lesson every Thursday 4:30 to 6:00pm commencing 28 October.

Any School / School Teacher / Parent who wishes to have more information about BridgeWhiz or to register a pupil(s) please contact Douglas Wright at douglaswright@3countiesbridge.com or 07801 989630. Registration by parent can be done by clicking [here](#).

Surrey Schools' Cup

The Surrey Schools' Cup will return next year and is scheduled to take place at Wimbledon Bridge Club on 4 February 2022.

Going Cashless

Denny Endicott

The challenges faced by going cashless at Wimbledon Bridge Club (WBC)

We have been playing online since June 2020, supported by a billing system we developed ourselves. This has been a real asset, but is restricted as to what and how we can charge. We decided cashless was the way forward as we reopened.

We purchased BriAnMAS (www.brianbridge.net), an internal billing system developed by Victor Lesk. Put simply, at the press of a button you can load your members database, bank payments and results files (online and F2F) to maintain an internal record of money received and sessions played (standard, special events, etc). Members can now order an individual statement of their account from our web page. This saved us at least two hours a week in counting and banking our cash and over £100 a month in bank charges, while also eliminating the risk involved in taking cash to the bank.

We recognised the need to have a debit/credit card facility for our bar and to take visitor table money. This is also being used by members to conveniently top up their internal account. So, flushed with the success of our sessions billing we investigated cashless bar options.

We elected to get a programmable till and associated payment card reader. This is what you see in many shops and pubs; you place your order and the amount to be paid appears on the payment device where you just touch your contactless card.

So what are the lessons learnt that might be applicable to your club?

- You may want to use BriAnMAS for sessions.
- If you are a small club, consider remaining with cash for the bar? The response to going cashless has been positive but it does entail additional work and control.
- Collecting visitor's table money: cash or a simple payment card reader? A simple standalone payment processing machine is inexpensive to buy but will have a high transaction cost. Not a problem for limited usage. Our volume indicated a high minimum commitment but with a low transaction charge.

A good solution would be for a simple application on a tablet to record the member's order and identity (BriAnMAS uses the EBU number) then to create a file for upload into BriAnMAS. This is a solution we have asked Victor to consider.

In conclusion, did we do the right thing going cashless? Yes! You are going to have to do it at some point, particularly as online play is not going away, so now is the time. Although it is not saving us money, it has simplified some of our financial process, but at the expense of introducing more checking, mainly for our volume of card payments. My last word in considering going cashless is KISS – Keep It Short & Simple. You can always improve later.

Caterham Bridge Club *Bridge, walk and picnic*

The first of these events on 6 August was great fun, with participants playing bridge at the White Hart before walking along the Wey navigation. Photos from the day are below.



Farnham, The Bourne & 3 Counties Bridge Clubs



Charity Pairs

The Erica Currie & Richard Currie Pairs



The Farnham, Bourne, Yateley, Hawley/Camberley and 3Counties bridge clubs are combining to run a charity pairs, in memory of two very special members of the Farnham bridge community, and in aid of Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice. There is no entry fee or other charge, but each pair is requested to make a donation of £20 (or more) to the Hospice. All donations go directly to the Hospice, plus are eligible for gift aid if you are a tax payer. (The three sponsoring clubs are covering all the admin and EBU P2P fees).

This is an event that has been held annually for several years. This year it will be online only, so it is open to all irrespective of where you live, or whether you are a member of one of the three sponsoring clubs.

Format: each of the four sponsoring clubs will hold a heat in the week of 15 November. The top 12 pairs will be invited to play in the Final, all others in the Plate, both of which will be held on the afternoon of Sunday 21 September. Trophies will be awarded to the winners of both the Final and the Plate and EBU match points (club scale) will be awarded.

One heat will be on BCL on the Tuesday afternoon, one on Realbridge on the Wednesday evening and one on BCL on the Thursday evening, so there should be a time and platform to suit most players. The Final and Plate will be played on Realbridge, with help available to any players not already familiar with this excellent platform. **Players may enter more than one heat, and, just to repeat, the competition is free of all charges. Players are just requested to donate to our local Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice. We aim to raise £1,000+**

Full instructions will be sent to registered participants nearer to the event.

HEATS DATES: (Pairs may enter more than one qualifier)

- 3 Counties Bridge qualifier (BCL) Tue 16 Nov 3:00 for 3:15pm
- Farnham Bridge Club qualifier (RealBridge) Wed 17 Nov 7:15 for 7:30pm

- Bourne Bridge Club qualifier (BCL) Thu 18 Nov 7:15 for 7:30pm
- YHBC/CBC qualifier (BBO) Thu 18 Nov 7:15 for 7:30pm

FINAL (12 pairs, 22 boards) (Realbridge) Sun 21 Nov 1:45 for 2:00pm

PLATE (18 boards) (Realbridge) Sun 21 Nov 2:15 for 2:30pm

Please register by visiting <https://www.bridgewebs.com/farnham>

Please donate by visiting <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ecrcpairs>

Surrey and Friends Online Bridge Club on BBO – Open to all!

Surrey and Friends is an EBU Affiliated friendly club that runs online duplicates on BBO on Mondays at 1:45pm and Thursdays at 7:15pm. All Surrey players are welcome. Please register your BBO user name and details [here](#). Familiarisation will be provided to those who are new to online play and would like to try it out.

The club runs lessons for various lessons and there is also the opportunity to review boards played.

A New Session for Woking Bridge Club

Woking Bridge Club decided to re-open for face to face bridge as soon as the lifting of restrictions allowed in July, with suitable precautions in place, particularly concerning vaccination and good ventilation of our venue at The Dianthus Building in Goldsworth Park.

After a cautious start with just three tables at both the first Tuesday 7:30pm and Wednesday 1pm sessions, we now have around eight tables on Tuesdays and a few more on Wednesdays. Since re-opening, we are very pleased to have welcomed 13 new members to our club, which gives us confidence that we have been making the right decisions and that we have a bright future.

In a further move to strengthen our club, we have decided to start a new weekly session at 1pm on Mondays starting on 10 January 2022. We anticipate that this will attract even more new members to our club, who will be most welcome to join us at all our sessions. Full details are available at www.wokingbridge.co.uk

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 on any of this newsletter or, for any other bridge matter, please contact the Committee via the links on 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 joyous Autumn from SCBA.