



Surrey County Bridge Association

Newsletter # 47, December 2022



Introduction

Tim Warren



Merry Christmas to all!

I attended the EBU's AGM at the end of November, the first held face-to-face since 2019. A virtual meeting enables many more people to take part but, like bridge itself, you gain so much more from F2F interaction.

It was great to be there for the presentation of a 2022 Dimmie Fleming Award to our own Trevor Hobson. Frances Hinden's significant service to English bridge at national level was also recognised with the Bronze Award. You can read all about these, and see a picture of Trevor (the smiling one) receiving his, [on p5](#).

As I mentioned in the last edition, the EBU intends to take back from counties the running of all online Green-Pointed events from next year. The main contentious item at the AGM was a counter-proposal from Herts. For many counties, GP weekends are of major financial importance. Pre-Covid, ours was tending to make a surplus of around £1000 pa; in a bumper year it could be as much as £2000. These surpluses enabled us to fund things such as investment in junior bridge.

Nevertheless, we voted against the Herts proposal. Most other counties took the same line, so in effect the EBU's ideas were supported. Our main reasons for voting as we did were:

1. We believe it's important for the future of bridge that the EBU has a secure financial base. The pandemic has taken away much of their income, and with club attendances still well down, something has to change to enable this.
2. Online events are in effect national anyway – entering and playing are no different, whether you live in Redhill or Redcar, Richmond (London) or Richmond (Yorks). A good proportion of our members still treat the Surrey GP weekend as 'ours', but the effect is waning – in this year's online Swiss Pairs, only about a quarter of entrants were from Surrey.

Counties will still be allowed to run F2F Green-Pointed events, and our team will be discussing a policy on this in the coming year. [Shirley Pritchard's article on p11](#) explores this further.

Whichever way things go, please come along to our events – if they are to continue, we very much need your support. To help with this, we've made our 2023 County Pairs and Plate FREE to enter for primary Surrey members.

The prize for our [Double Dummy Puzzle](#) – free entry to a Surrey county competition for you and a partner of your choice – will be open only to those who haven't entered the puzzle before. If you can solve just one of our puzzles, you'll have a good chance of winning – why not give it a go?

In This Edition

Introduction	1
Director Training Dates	2
Calendar	2
SCBA Website: Clubs and Teachers	3
Any BridgeMates for Sale?	3
A Few Simple Things	4
EBU Awards	5
Have Your Say	5
Congratulations	8
A Hand from the Premier League	9
Prize Double Dummy Puzzle	10
Club News	11
The Future of County Bridge Events	12
Double Dummy 15 Answer	13
Bridge in Golf Clubs	14
Bridge Lessons & a Mirthy Lecture	15
And finally...	16

Director Training Dates

[Richard Banbury](#) will be running EBTA club Director TD Training courses at Richmond on the following 4 dates (Sundays)

Jan 29th 2023

Mar 5th 2023

Apr 2nd 2023

Apr 16th 2023

For more information please contact Richard.

[Douglas Wright](#) is holding a Club Teacher Training course

22-23 April in Horsham

For more information please contact Douglas.

Calendar

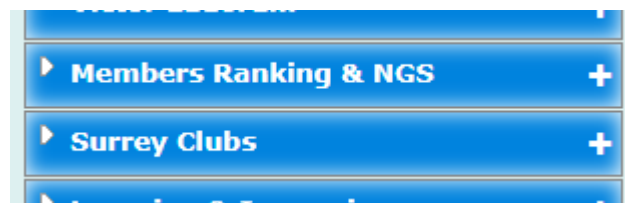
Jan 8 th	Teams of 8	Realbridge	The winners go on to represent Surrey in the Garden Cities 2 or more clubs can get together to make up a team, but, if they win, they will not be eligible for to represent Surrey in the Garden Cities regional heat
Feb 3 rd	Surrey Schools Cup	Richard Challoner School, New Malden	For more information see the SCBA web site, menu 'Surrey Junior Bridge'
Mar 5 th	Mixed Pairs	BBO	
Mar 12 th	County Pairs & Plate	Richmond	This will be free to all primary SCBA members The top 5 pairs go on to represent Surrey in the Corwin Cup
May 21 st	Mary Edwards	Online	Clubs enter a pair to represent them. The pair must be chosen by some form of competition. This can be a designated club evening, a 'best of three' club evenings or a club ladder.
June 11 th	Wanborough Cup		Clubs enter a team to represent them. As with the Mary Edwards the team must be chosen by some form of competition, but it does not have to be a teams competition. Pick the top pairs from a designated club evening. Maybe run the evening scoring by X-IMPs to give it a 'team's feel'.
July 2 nd	AGM	Format t.b.a	

Surrey Clubs, their Office Holders, and Surrey-based Bridge Teachers

As the SCBA Web Manager I strive to ensure that the information displayed on our website is as current and correct as it can be in relation to the Bridge Clubs and Bridge Teachers in Surrey.

In this article: Clicking on any text string below that is in blue and underlined will take you to that web page

The MENU on the left of our [Homepage](#) has a line item called [SURREY CLUBS](#).



Clicking on that line item will display a page showing Lists of Surrey Clubs for (in order) Affiliated, Un-Affiliated, and Online Clubs, followed by a List of Bridge Teachers based in Surrey. Each entry listed is preceded by a '+' which will display more information when it is clicked on.

Also, when you click on [SURREY CLUBS](#) you will see under that line item more line items relating to the Clubs. These items list the Office Holders (Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer) for the Clubs under sub-headings separating Affiliated and Un-Affiliated Clubs.

The Names, email addresses, and phone numbers, and any other information displayed on these Lists are held in our Membership Database, and so the Lists are only as accurate and up-to-date as the information held therein. *In particular*, I have added a new [Main Contacts](#) List for Members who are flagged as such. The problem is that I cannot know for sure which Club this relates to, so I made an educated guess. Also if a Member is the Main Contact at more than one Club, then I cannot show the second Club. Please let me know if this is the situation in your case as I can add entries for other Clubs.

The website also holds more detailed information about Teachers on the [Bridge Teachers](#) page.



If therefore, when viewing any Page (List), you see any wrong information being displayed, please do not hesitate to email me [scba.webmanager@bridgewebs.com] letting me know what Page you're referring to, and what needs to be removed / amended /added to that List to allow me to update our records accordingly.

Any BridgeMates for Sale?

Aidan has started a new club down in Haslemere.

We only play f2f and have approx. 70 members and now wish to explore BridgeMates.

As a small club the cost is high and it occurred to me that there may be local clubs who have moved to online and may have redundant BridgeMates that they may be prepared to sell?

If you do have anything please contact [Aidan Heathcote](#)

After two years without playing face to face at the club, we may all be a bit rusty about what to do when things go wrong. Some simple good habits will often save time and embarrassment



Apart from the usual revokes, leads out of turn and insufficient bids, the commonest problems I encounter almost every week are:

- A player with only 12 cards in their hand (card 13 is on the floor under the previous table). Often this is never noticed until trick 11 or 12.
- Three players playing with the cards from Bd 10 while the fourth had such a good hand on Bd 9 that they would like to play Bd 10 with the same hand. This usually doesn't get noticed until the Ace of Hearts is played twice, sometimes on the same trick!

Always count your cards at the start & make sure that you have all taken the cards from the same board! Only North should be moving the boards around.

When you are on lead – choose your lead and place it down face down on the table with a “questions, partner?” – the most practical benefit is to protect you when it's actually partner's lead!

An interesting variation on this theme at a club event two months ago was when two hands were laid down on the table as “dummy” – one by declarer's partner, one by a defender. Playing with 13 penalty cards on the table did lighten the mood!

Always please just call the TD as soon as something goes wrong – not after a lot of debate. If there may have been a revoke, don't turn over played cards trying to prove or disprove what's said at the table. It gets very confusing and causes declarer to lose the thread of what's happened in the play to that point.

Finally a lot of us still enjoy playing online, as well as at the club. The key thing for online bridge is keeping up to speed. It's easy to lose track of time. A great way to do this is to claim when all the tricks are yours (best to finish drawing trumps first!)

If the postman calls, tell the table you are disappearing for a bit - even if just with a “BRB” message (“Be right back”). Otherwise your opponents won't know whether you are lost in dark space on the internet or hesitating at a key moment.

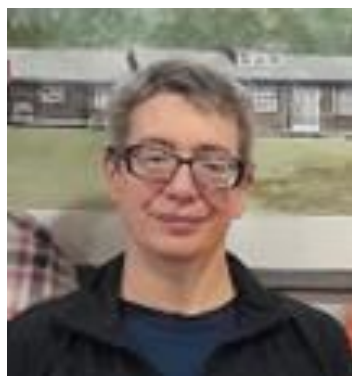
The commonest complaint I receive is that someone's explanation does not match their hand. Players are obliged to explain their system – not to tell you what is in their hand. So if they open a “weak two” with 11HCP or a 5-card suit but they self-alert as “6-10 with a 6-card suit” don't expect the TD to take action.

Explain your bids meaningfully – answering with “natural” is never likely to be helpful – at least try something like “weak”, “intermediate” or “forcing” – that's what the opponents usually want to know.

EBU Awards for Trevor Hobson and Frances Hinden

At this year's EBU AGM, the contributions of two leading Surrey members were recognised with well-deserved awards:

Trevor Hobson received a Dimmie Fleming. The Dimmies recognise a long and valuable contribution to county bridge. Trevor has been an indispensable member of the Surrey Committee for 15 years. In recent times, he was Chairman from 2015-20 and President from 2020-22, and prior to this he had taken on various other roles, such as Leagues organiser. You can [read Trevor's full citation here](#).



Frances Hinden received the EBU Bronze Award, which recognises significant service to English bridge at national level. Frances regularly appears in the England team, and is forever winning national competitions, but she also contributes a great deal behind the scenes. You can [read Frances' citation here](#).

Have Your Say

Have we given up on Face-to-Face bridge too soon?

It is only very recently that Covid has become more or less irrelevant to the vast majority of people's social behaviours. Of course, there are many who reached this position over a year ago; but for many the "lockdown years" created different behaviours, expectations, evaluation of needs and, as the threat (and memory) of covid has diminished, perhaps pre-existing social needs are returning? This, therefore, means that it's only now valid to start assessing whether sufficient numbers want to play F2F versus online.

There are some areas where I think online is better. For instance, "head to head" teams matches are ideal for online contest, as the organizational hassle of finding (usually) a team member's home to play the match is very difficult for many players, and travel for an evening match makes it very difficult for those who work. And there's plenty of time to introduce and get to "know" opponents when there are no real associated time issues.

But I'm firmly in the camp of "multiple/swiss-pairs/teams" events all being best played face-to-face.

Personally, I detest the act of being "bounced" from one round against one pair into another round against a different pair (occasionally seeing the board disappear mid-play), and having to "meet"

opponents and read their card while under pressure to avoid the same issue again, while pondering whether TD will rule appropriately about the board I was in mid-play. And I dislike being stuck in front of a screen for more than about 3 hours.

Surely these are the events where we should be building up some of the truly “social” aspects associated with bridge ?

My problem (and I’m sure I’m not alone) is that I don’t want to play in just any F2F Pairs competitions – I want them to be of a decent quality, or at least with a fair number of good players playing. The dilemma, of course, is that, starting from a recent base of no F2F being played and needing rapid increases in numbers and quality, these increases are only going to be achieved when prospective returnees see increases in numbers and quality playing.

In the past, these “decent quality Pairs events” were the competitions run by the EBU or by Surrey (or other counties as GP events). How nice it was to play in the Kent-Sussex GP Pairs F2F in October – despite the result. If the EBU and counties are now adopting an approach of “F2F hasn’t been supported well recently, and online has fared better, so we must run them all online” then neither organisation is giving F2F a proper chance, and neither is going to be running the Pairs competitions in which I’m interested in participating - and, as far as I’m concerned, will have killed off the vast majority of worthwhile Pairs events.

I’m sympathetic to the argument that finances simply can’t support loss-making F2F events – but organisations need to take a long-term view. The alternative is to create/continue a self-fulfilling prophecy of declining numbers across all events.

By **Dave Norman**

Bridge Platforms and the issues with maximising events

Since March 2020, the global community has changed in ways we never would have thought possible. Work environments, Restaurants, Supermarkets, Airports and most public areas have been modified and many are still at home for many activities they would have gone out for.

This includes Bridge!

Online Bridge is not the same as F2F (Face to Face) in many ways. Some aspects can be considered as an improvement though:

1. No travelling (saving Fuel !!!) – enabling wider County and national events to be played in also
2. Instant access to results and hands for those that want to analyse
3. Access to your System, not something I would recommend over-using but great for learning a new system or system aspect
4. No set-up of tables, chairs, bidding boxes etc
5. Easy event management
6. No un-authorized information as bids are self-alerted and you don’t see partner in shock as you explain it wrong!!!

For social bridge, I would advocate using the AV features on BBO. It is great quality, doesn’t fill the screen and enables a nice friendly game. Of course, try not to use this feature for “serious” bridge as you will lose all the benefits of playing online and will combine the worst aspects of F2F (Unauthorised information) with a diminished online experience (even though the images are moveable, they still distract !).

For club bridge, BBO with AV turned off seems to be the best solution and is so easy. For other events, most are still possible but we need help on a technical side for the set-up. I must admit, some are still

easy to manage but others we would rely on BBO Technical support to run Teams of 8, Multiple Teams and true Swiss events.

To continue to operate successfully, I am of the view that one platform is the way forward. Each platform has its merits, of course, but the more choice we offer, the more we divide our community. In this era of Bridge, I feel saddened that we now have a firm divide and this is breaking up friendships, clubs and counties. We can never maximise numbers for events now as some will only play one system or the other. It is very disruptive and will ultimately cause our game to be damaged as we lose events and interest.

In theory, we, the bridge community, could decide on any platform to consolidate our games. I personally am not keen on the RealBridge option for a few reasons (these are personal views, not facts):

1. Links need to be accessed to play in any session, it is much easier to have an account and simply turn up
2. The screen is taken up with camera views (even if you turn them off)
3. The access is poor due to the bandwidth required and many couples cannot both play
 - a. Due to internet connection
 - b. Noise from one room to the other
4. The playing design is off-putting, this could easily be due to my being used to BBO and not a direct criticism
5. Unauthorised information all the time as you can see the players (often see them mouthing words or counting). The involuntary exclamations are seen/heard also
6. Background noise! Anyone with a TV in the background, others in their house, pets, doorbells
7. People eating/drinking when on camera is not always pleasant

For me, F2F is the true form of bridge and should be aimed for. Where not possible, online is a good alternative and BBO offers a great platform for this. If we can move together as one community in this direction, I think we will see members united again, numbers grow and bridge will thrive. If not, I fear a decline is inevitable (even from the EBU where revenue must be going down with fewer players playing, service will have to change or cease).

By combining our efforts and focussing our direction in a unified way, I am confident we can keep Bridge alive and flourish again. Please help and support local clubs and Counties.

By **Ian Lewis**

So, two very different views on where bridge should be heading. What do you think? Let me know and I will publish your views in the next newsletter. - Ed

RealBridge, alerting and the EBU

I play in quite a lot of GP events (1 – 2 a month), which are mostly on RealBridge. I like RealBridge since during the long waits between rounds (we play quite fast) it is nice to be able to chat to the opposition.

From my perspective, RealBridge is very like F2F bridge. All the counties whose events I've played in this year, and 90% of them last year, treat RealBridge as if it F2F for alerting purposes, and I think this is good. After all, you can hear and see your partner. However, the EBU have decided to use BBO rules for alerting. Why, I do not know. So, if you play in an EBU event, life is different. Firstly, unlike BBO, since you can see and hear your partner you know when they are alerting/explaining something (you

can see them busily typing away) which gives you UI. Secondly, since no-one else (that I know of) does this on RealBridge it causes some chaos with the players. The scenarios I've come across are:

1. No-one alerts or explains because they think their partner is going to do it
2. Self-alerting - as requested
3. F2F alerting
4. Both - the opposite of 1., where both make an attempt to alert/explain a bid.

Everyone I have spoken to at these events prefers to alert as F2F.

I would like the EBU to change their rules. This is now especially important as the EBU are now running **all** GP online events.

By **Julia Brough**

What do you think? - Ed

Congratulations

Dorin Salver

Monday	Martin Vaux & Guy Pescod	69.1%	Overall winners
Tuesday	Anthea Barry & Celia Hulme	61.1%	
Wednesday	John & Jane Gallagher	65.2%	
Thursday	Trish & Robin Lynch	69.0%	

NB: We raised £1832 for the Queen Elizabeth's Foundation this year – thank you (more than 40% above last year's sum)

SCBA GP Pairs

1st Christopher Whitehouse & Mary-Ann Sheeley
2nd James Bond & Graham Davison
3rd Paul Murray & Andrew Woodcock

SCBA GP Teams 1st Frances Hinden, Sally Brock, Barry Myers & Steve Eginton



Season 21/22 ends

Victor Ludorum Peter Lee

Surrey League

Division 1 Frances Hinden, Jeffrey Allerton, Peter Lee, Graham Osborne, Mike Scoltock
Division 2A Richard Granville, John Cox, Richard Fedrick, Graham Sadie, Andrew Southwell
Division 2B Jackie Davies, Michael Aslett, Sally Bennett, Gerald Freedman, Bob Turnham
Division 3A Neil P Thomas, Philip Cretch, Sue Cretch, Charles Nixon, Dorothy Rivers, Barbara Thomas
Division 3B Sue Shaw, Sue Grant, Bridget Macdougall, Colin Porch, Carla Sidney-Woollett, Lorna Vestey
Division 4 Manda Kimberly, Lynn Paynter, Tilsley Peck, Jonathan Prizeman, Michael Rushworth, Douglas Wright
Division 5 Nigel Biggs, Allyson Biggs, Kevin Byrne, Martin Farmer, Wendy Farmer, Nashat Saridar

- Wanborough Cup** Mayfield Team
Mike Scoltock & Peter Lee, Andrew Southwell & Richard Fedrick
- Lady Rose Cup** Charles Chisnall, Ian Swanson, Bob James, and Bill Hodgkiss
- Lady Rose Plate** Won by Barry Stoker's team
- Mary Edwards** Roehampton - Malcolm Bricknell & Peter Hardyment
- Mixed Pairs** John Edwards & Jane Carpenter
- Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal** (held with Kent and Sussex)
Celia & Derek Oram
- County Pairs** Steve & Jane Hopkins
- 9 High Pairs** Mike O'Brien & Frances Wallace
- Surrey Schools Salver** Westminster B
James Berry & Daniel Yap
Aditya Gupta & Ryaan Sultan
- Surrey Schools Cup** Harrodian/England
Thomas Bradkin & Raphaela Sinclair
William & Edward Battersby
- Teams of 8** Mayfield Red B
Peter Lee & Mike Scoltock
Andrew Southwell & Richard Fedrick

A Hand from the Premier League

Frances Hinden

Game all, dealer West

		♠ 74		
		♥ AK75		
		♦ 72		
		♣ AQ953		
♠ AQ10983	N		♠ KJ652	
♥ 1032	W E		♥ Q84	
♦ A1043	S		♦ 98	
♣ -			♣ 1072	
		♠ -		
		♥ J96		
		♦ KQJ65		
		♣ KJ864		

Bidding

West	North	East	South
Tom Paske	Frances Hinden	Andrew McIntosh	Chris Jagger
1S	Pass	3S	Pass
4S	Pass	Pass	4NT
Pass	5C	Pass	Pass
5S	6C	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West: 1S (unsuitable for a pre-empt with two aces and a void)
 North: Pass (might have overcalled, but prefer a 6-card minor for a 2-level overcall)
 East: 3S (normal pre-emptive raise – most experts have another way of showing a full value limit raise)
 South: Pass (might have bid, but worried about having too much defence and not enough playing strength at game all, when EW have not yet bid game)
 West: 4S (normal!)
 North: Pass
 East: Pass
 South: 4NT (two suits; EW seem happy to play 4S and so we may well have a good save)
 West: Pass
 North: 5C (4NT shows any two suits, and they are likely to be the red suits, but just in case..)
 East: Pass
 South: Pass
 West: 5S (looks as if 5C could even be making and we must have a lot of tricks)
 North: 6C (considered doubling given the strength of the hand but then considered that partner must have a spade void for all this spade bidding, it's possible that both 5S and 6C are making)
 East: Pass (none of his business)
 South: Pass (none of his business)
 West:Pass.... (knows that it has to be right to double or to bid, but in the end decides that N/S bidding is so absurd that it can't be right to bid!)

The play was fairly straightforward. Declarer ruffed the spade lead and drew one round of trumps. With trumps 3-0 she could not afford to play another trump so conceded the ace of diamonds and won the heart switch in hand. When everyone followed to a second round of diamonds she could ruff a third one high, finish drawing trumps and claim.

This was worth 13 imps when NS played in 5C+1 at the other table. It wasn't the biggest swing on this board in the event, however, as in the match between Aardvarks and Phoenix NS made 6C at one table, while their teammates made 4Sx at the other!

Prize Double Dummy Puzzle #16

[John Manches](#)

Once again we have two puzzles, the first one gentle, the second a bit harder.

Hand 1 (gentle)

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

South to make 3NT
Lead ♠ 7

Hand 2 (gentle)

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

South to make 6♥
Lead ♦ Q covered by ♦ K and ♦ A.
♦ 9 returned

As usual, please send your answer with full explanation to me at johnmanches74@gmail.com. The Deadline Date is 31 January 2023. The puzzles this month are gentler, so don't be hesitant to have a go. Not all responses I receive are always correct and I'm quite happy to correspond with anyone who replies. The prize this month is for new entrants only and will be free entry to one of our county competitions for the winner and partner of choice. The winner will be drawn from all first-time entrants with a clear, correct solution to EITHER of the two puzzles.

Club News

Ditton Bridge Club

Ditton Bridge Club is now operating (only, although we may occasionally have Realbridge events) Face-to-Face sessions on Tuesdays at 7.30pm at the Thames Ditton Centre, Mercer Close, Thames Ditton KT7 0BS, table money £3, large car-park, details on the Ditton Bridge Club website.

Woking Bridge Club

Major Honours for Martin

Woking Bridge Club helped Martin Camina celebrate his 90th birthday with a stylish "Major Honours" cake created by club member, Eileen Alderman. Martin has been a member of the club since the 1980s, and served as our chairman in the 1990s, running the club under its previous name of Old Woking Bridge Club. Martin will be well known to many players in the county, who I am sure join with the Woking players in wishing Martin a very happy birthday and many more years of enjoyment at the bridge table.



At the EBU AGM at the end of November, the EBU proposed a radical change to the way online events are run, and also pruned the calendar by cancelling several congresses.

As far as Surrey is concerned the main change to the calendar will be the disappearance of the Surrey Green Point weekend which has traditionally taken place at the end of September.

Even before the pandemic forced this event online, its future was looking financially uncertain. The costs of hiring the Spectrum, the tables and chairs, the boards together with the TDs meant the event ran at a loss in 2019.

When we realised we could run the event online in September 2020, we were able to make a significant surplus even though the table money was reduced from £25 per player to £12.

When run online this weekend became a nationwide competition. In this year's online Green Point Swiss Pairs only 25% of the entrants were members of Surrey.

This has had the unintended and undesirable effect of damaging EBU events by substantially undercutting them financially, so that EBU events are seen as comparatively expensive, and attendance and income have suffered.

As well as these financial concerns, the current arrangements allow county events in different parts of the country to clash – either online at the same time, or online competing with face-to-face, making it more difficult for the latter to regain the necessary critical mass to make them successful.

Following discussion at the AGM the shareholders voted by a large majority in favour of the EBU proposal that online Green Point events should be run by the national body and not by counties.

This leaves the counties to run F2F Green Point events if they so wish. Counties are understandably wary of running F2F competitions where:

1. The fixed costs are very high. This exposes us to a large financial risk, and makes table money at least double what people are used to paying online.
2. The entry may be very low. In Surrey's case our attempt to run a F2F Swiss Teams resulted in just 12 teams entering, and this was after we had to give free entry to some teams just to make the event viable. The last Green Point Swiss Teams event held at the Spectrum attracted 54 teams.
3. Such events take a lot more time and effort. Since the pandemic counties are finding they have fewer willing volunteers.

But we are reluctant to give up on F2F events, so are trialling the County Pairs and Plate F2F again next March at Richmond. We're making entry for these free to primary Surrey members. I hope that members will support this event, as it will give us an idea of the strength of demand for F2F events in the future.

Hand 1

<p>♠ – ♥ J 9 7 3 ♦ 10 7 ♣ A K 9 6 5 4 3</p>	<p>♠ 5 4 3 ♥ 8 6 2 ♦ 8 6 5 4 3 ♣ 10 7</p> <p>♠ A K 10 8 6 2 ♥ A K 5 ♦ A K Q ♣ Q</p>	<p>♠ Q J 9 7 ♥ Q 10 4 ♦ J 9 2 ♣ J 8 2</p>
---------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------

South to make 4♠
Lead ♣A,
followed by ♣K

Solvers did not appear to find this Hand too difficult. The key is to trump T2 with ♠6, preserving ♠2 in order to be able to under-ruff dummy later in the play. South then plays 5 top tricks in Diamonds and Hearts. He then needs 4 of the 6 remaining tricks as he exits with ♥5 at T8 with the cards as follows:

<p>♠ – ♥ J 9 ♦ ♣ 9 6 5 4</p>	<p>♠ 5 4 3 ♥ 8 ♦ 8 6 ♣</p> <p>♠ A K 10 8 2 ♥ 5 ♦ ♣</p>	<p>♠ Q J 9 7 ♥ Q or 10 ♦ ♣ J</p>
------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------

a) If T8 is won by E with QH.

A trump lead by East at T9 is won by South, who then returns the lower of ♠10 or ♠8 to put East back on lead: a further trump lead from East at T11 then gives South his contract, while ♣J lead is ruffed by the carefully preserved ♠2 and over-ruffed in dummy. The lead is then in dummy with South holding a tenace over East's 2 remaining trumps. The same play follows in a different order if East leads ♣J at T9.

b) Play follows the same lines even if East unblocks his ♥Q so that West wins T8 with ♥J.

Hand 2

<p>♠ 3 ♥ K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 ♦ J 8 ♣ 10</p>	<p>♠ K 8 6 4 2 ♥ 4 3 ♦ K 4 3 ♣ A 9 5</p> <p>♠ A Q J 10 9 ♥ A 2 ♦ A 5 2 ♣ 7 6 4</p>	<p>♠ 7 5 ♥ – ♦ Q 10 9 7 6 ♣ K Q J 8 3 2</p>
--------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------

Bidding goes

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
			1S
4H	4S	end	

Contract 4♠ by South
Lead ♥K, ruffed by East
East returns ♣K

This puzzle presented little problem to those who had seen its like before; more perhaps to those who hadn't.

South jettisons his ♥A under East's ruff, draws trumps, plays ♦AK and ♣A in some order and then exits with ♥2.

West, with only Hearts remaining, is forced to win. His first heart lead allows a Club discard from North and a Diamond discard from South. His second is ruffed by North while South discards his second club. South makes the remaining tricks on a cross ruff.

Many thanks to all who submitted solutions, and particularly to Andy Poole who added the delightful comment that the second puzzle would have been an easy one for the Rueful Rabbit who would happily have played his Ace at T1 never having noticed that East had already ruffed it!

10 people provided correct solutions to both puzzles, the winning entry coming from **Alan Brown** who wins free entry to one of our county competitions for himself and partner of choice. Thank you to all, and well done Alan.

Bridge in Golf Clubs

[Douglas Wright](#)

Hindhead Golf Club held its superb annual Golf Bridge competition on 9 November. Results can be found at www.3countiesbridge.com Hindhead GC also has a monthly Bridge Supper on Saturdays 4pm. Guests are welcome. Please contact peter-bailey4@sky.com

Effingham Golf Club has an excellent number of bridge players since it has held Beginner and Improver Taster sessions, followed by Beginner and Improver Lessons resulting in a very healthy Tuesday evening Duplicate Pairs evening.

Reigate Heath Golf Club are holding an Improver Taster Session on Thursday 12 Jan 2023, which will then be followed by Improver Lessons, to create a Bridge Section in the Club.

Hankley Common Golf club has a very healthy Charity event since Beginner and Improver lessons have taken place in the Club.

Guildford Golf Club has a weekly Duplicate Pairs evening, which also enables all Guildford Improvers to experience the benefits of Duplicate Bridge in a friendly environment.

Tyrrells Wood Golf Club has a host of new bridge players.

Dorking Golf Club hosted Bridge Lessons pre-Covid which has now enabled Bridge lessons to take place in the Christian Centre in Dorking.

The **RAC Club** has always had a very good bridge club.

The **Dorking Bridge Club** are hosting lessons for Improvers from Betchworth Park Golf Club.

Please tell us your Bridge in Golf Clubs stories and if you wish to have any help in developing Bridge in Golf Clubs please contact douglaswright@3countiesbridge.com A goal is to have some fun inter Golf Club Bridge teams matches with or without the Golf depending on the Golf Clubs preferences.

Meena Samani

Two Online Courses starting in January and February:

- A 3-Session Introduction to Strong NT / 5-Card Major and 2-over-1 System, starting on Thu 9 February, at 9:30 am

The **Strong NT and 5-Card Major (5CM) system** has been gaining popularity, which has been more recently accelerated by online play,

The extension to Strong NT and 5CM is the 2-over-1 Game Forcing System, played by the BBO robots.

Several UK ACOL players have transitioned to either 'Strong and 5', or the full 2-over-1 system and some play a hybrid of Weak NT and 5CM.

This short course, provides an introduction to bidding the full 2-over-1 system and suggestions on how you and your partner could transition to it, know which bids to alert, and gain some practice.

These sessions will also be useful for players who don't play the system, but want to know how to defend against it.

Meena Samani will be running these sessions online on Zoom, including lots of demo hands. **The sessions are over 3 Thursdays, 9:30 am start, on 9, 16 and 23 February.** Please book via the link below – the course will go ahead with at least 10 attendees. If you would like to know more about this topic, but can't make one or more of these dates, please book below and the Zoom recording plus notes will be emailed to you after each session.

For more information, please click [here](#) or call Meena on 07740 053683.

- A course on Modern Competitive Bidding and Conventions, starting on Tue 3 Jan at 9:30 am

On **Tue 3 Jan at 9:30 am on Zoom, followed by highly participative play at a BBO Teaching table**, where players are rotated in and out, while others continue to watch the full action on Zoom. Both the lesson and play are recorded, and the link is sent to everyone after the session.

The topics will include Unassuming Cue Bids, Competitive Bidding after a X and after an overcall, the Jacoby 2NT convention, Escape from 1NT X, the McKendrick convention, 'Mixed' Doubles (Takeout, Negative, Re-Opening, Responsive) and 2-suited overcalls.

The course will help to develop a convention card with your regular partners and highlight the key items to discuss with any new or ad hoc partners.

Please book for the Modern Competitive Bidding and Conventions course using this [link](#).

On the Mirthy Platform: An Introduction to Bridge

Do you know a friend who might be interested in Bridge, or would you like to know more about the origin and history of the game? If so, please join the talk being given by Meena, one of Surrey's Bridge teachers, on Mon Jan 9th at 4pm.

The talk will cover the history and development of the game, famous players over time and how the game is played at home, clubs, and major Tournaments.

The talk can be booked by anyone since several sessions are free to new joiners.

For more information and book click [here](#).

Douglas Wright

Beginner Bridge lessons

There are new Beginner Bridge Lessons starting in January on Monday afternoons, Wednesday evenings and Thursday evenings, both F2F and Online. Invite your friends and relatives who do not play bridge.

Improver Bridge lessons

There are a host of existing improver Bridge Lessons around the County, so if you or your friends would like to Improve their bridge, please get in touch

douglaswright@3countiesbridge.com 01428 717869 or 07801 989630

And finally.....

I hope that you have all had good Christmas celebrations and are ready for the New Year. The next newsletter will come out towards the end of March, when hopefully, Spring will have sprung. 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.

[Julia Brough](#)
Editor

