



Surrey County Bridge Association

Newsletter # 48, Spring 2023



Introduction

Tim Warren

Every few months, the EBU hosts a co-ordination session for chairs of county associations. The most recent, in February, focussed on how to get more teaching to happen.

Tim Anderson, responsible in the EBU for Membership Development, starkly demonstrated the need for this (see graph below).

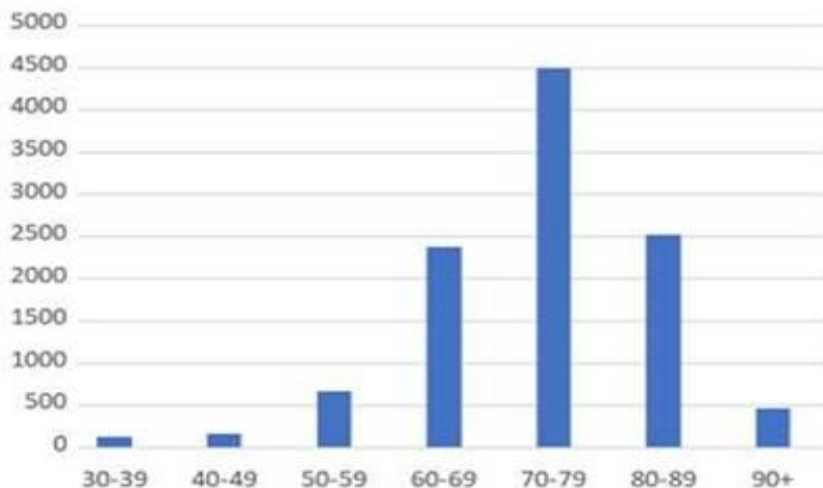
His message was very clear: The numbers playing bridge are going to be falling off a cliff in the next few years.

This has big implications, particularly for our face-to-face clubs. If we don't get more people (1) learning to play, and (2) progressing onto playing in clubs, many will close.

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Age of EBU Members (where known)



- A bit of small print about representativeness:
- We know age for only about a quarter of members, but the *shape* of the curve is likely to be about right.
 - I've removed the younger age groups, as for most of them we know their age, i.e. total numbers aren't comparable with the older groups.

I'd guess that Surrey is one of the best-placed counties in England, with several major centres of teaching, including Richmond, Wimbledon, Three Counties and Caterham BCs, among others. I suspect there's still a fair bit of untapped demand out there from people who would be keen to learn, were we to have the teachers, advertise more widely for learners, and make it easy to find somewhere local with friendly, welcoming faces. But once people have learned, getting them to progress to playing in our bridge clubs is a significant challenge.

The SCBA team are looking at ways we can help local BCs with all this. But we need help. If you'd be interested in helping us, whether as BC, teacher or advisor – or whatever – please get in touch.

Calendar

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	Online
	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 'teams feel'.	
July 2 nd	AGM	Format t.b.a

Has your club chosen its pair to represent the club in the Mary Edwards? And team for the Wanborough Cup? Since I've failed to qualify in both for my club, I won't see you there, but I hope that there will be a good turn out.
Editor

Playing the Wrong Card!

Richard Banbury

During lockdown one thing we all forgot how to do was to "revoke" as well as to lead "out of turn" – all things which the computer prevented but which humans still love to do!

Revokes

A revoke is when you don't follow suit when you should – and it can give rise to a significant adjustment to the number of tricks won at the table.

Don't forget that regardless of whether you are dummy or a defender you can always ask your partner "Having no [suit]" when they fail to follow suit – just in case you prevent a potential revoke from becoming "established"

A revoke can be established in various ways – most commonly when either the player who revoked – or their partner – plays a card to the subsequent trick. As soon as that happens the revoke cannot be corrected – and the players should just continue to the end of the hand regardless.

At the time players should not turn over all the quitted tricks – trying to prove a revoke happened or not – it only messes up the layout of the cards while distracting all the players from the rest of the hand. Only the TD should investigate the circumstances of a revoke when the play is finished.

Some things you may not have known about revokes

- There is no automatic penalty for a revoke although any adjustment may feel like a penalty!
- There is no penalty for a revoke at trick 12 – the play is corrected
- There is no adjustment for a revoke by dummy
- The innocent side can always ask the TD to consider whether any adjustment for a revoke is sufficient to "restore equity" – ie whether they have been damaged as a result of the revoke.

Leads out of turn

The most common scenario is at trick 1 when the wrong defender leads. (That's the main reason for leading a card face down so that it can be corrected if it's not your turn). This leads to the TD giving the declarer 5 options – which can often make it difficult for a player to decide how to proceed.

Options (i) and (ii) – the incorrect lead is accepted – then declarer either plays the hand themselves or elects to be dummy and to have their partner play the hand instead – either way dummy's cards are laid out on the table as soon as the lead is accepted.

Options (iii) (iv) (v) – the incorrect lead is not accepted and becomes a penalty card - the correct player is asked to lead instead – subject to declarer's choice as follows

(iii) Declarer can insist on that suit being led – the penalty card is picked up and the offender can play any legal card without penalty.

(iv) Declarer can prohibit that suit being led – the penalty card is picked up and the offender can play any legal card without penalty.

(v) Declarer can leave the defender to lead what they want – the penalty card remains on the table to be played at the first legal opportunity.

Did you know

- A lead out of turn can always be accepted by either opponent
- When declarer leads or calls for a card from the wrong hand – that's still a lead out of turn and can be accepted by either opponent

NB The above is a selected summary and the director should always be called.

Have Your Say

Voice From the Deep (NGS 2)

NOVICES - Who/what are they?

Pick up any current bridge publication at random and there appears to be a universally agreed definition of a bridge novice. It's somebody who's just retired, has time on their hands and wants to take up a new pursuit to exercise their mind and to provide a means of making new friends and acquaintances in an easy social environment. So they've scurried off to find some bridge lessons, have mastered a few rudiments (or think they have) and are debating whether or not they're sufficiently confident of their bridge and of their self-assurance to join the fray at a local bridge-club.

And they've all learned to play the same way.

So that's the stereotype which pervades the pages of the bridge press.

But what about the rest of us - the eternal novices ?

For example those who've always played cards of one sort or another, casually drifting randomly from Sevens, to Newmarket, Canasta, Knock-out Whist, Pontoon, Snap etc etc and perhaps also to bridge.

Or those who picked up bridge to relieve the boredom of National Service or who "learned" it at University.

In short there are many of us who've just picked it up along the way - and our ways have been very varied. Many have probably attended formal classes very rarely or not at all. Their bridge is based upon an incoherent hotchpotch of experience and various tips (good, bad and indifferent) offered from time to time across the table from self-styled experts, or gleaned from bridge magazines from the pens of "real" experts. And generally it works!

They are probably competitive and like to do well, but not so ardently as to make a serious effort to improve. It suffices to play and to enjoy themselves in like-minded company. "After all, it's only a game".

So, as one who's played on and off for 60-odd years but is nonetheless ranked NGS 2, am I a novice ?

According to the authorities definitely not. Some years ago when applying to join a "no-fear" tournament for novices I found it was a requirement that I play ACOL. I explained that I'd no knowledge of ACOL and had always played 5-card majors. The uncompromising retort from the SCBA organiser was "Well, if you're playing 5-card majors you can't possibly be a novice"!!

Richard Granville Ackland

Congratulations

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

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



Anything for Sale? Want to Buy?

Does your club have anything that you would like to sell? Is there anything that you would like to buy second-hand? Let me know and I will put it in the newsletter.

The Underused Matchpoint Double

William Clennell

It was fantastic to see so many players, Surrey and non-Surrey alike, at Richmond for this year's Surrey County Cup. We billed it as the return to face-to-face bridge at county level and I hope it delivered for everyone who played. The next major in-person events will be this September for our green-pointed weekend, make sure you keep an eye on the website for the latest.

My day was notable for the sheer number of doubled contracts we ended up playing - 9 out of 52 to be exact! However, I think the board below is especially useful in demonstrating the value of the underused matchpoint double:

The image shows a bridge board interface. At the top, it indicates 'Dir: East' and 'Vul: All'. The dealer's hand is shown as ♠ 9 8 3 2, ♥ Q 8 7 6, ♦ 7 3, and ♣ Q 8 7. The optimum score is EW 3N -400. The board number is 26, with North and South. The hands are: North (♠ 7 6 5, ♥ K J 10, ♦ 10 9 6 2, ♣ J 6 3) and South (♠ A Q J, ♥ 9 5 4, ♦ A Q 4, ♣ A 10 9 5). A bidding table below shows the auction: 1♥ (N), 1NT (W), 2♥* (N), 2♥ (N), 2♥* (N), 2♦ (E). A trick score table at the bottom shows results for various contracts.

NS	EW	Bid	By	Ld	Tks	+Sc	-Sc	+	-
1	2	2♥	N	♦9	5		300	5	7
6	8	1NT	W	♠9	9		150	10	2
7	12	2♥*	N	♦9	3		1400	0	12
9	5	2♥	N	♠6	5		300	5	7
11	4	2♥	N	♦10	6		200	8	4
13	3	2♥*	N	♦10	4		1100	2	10
14	10	2♦	E	♥2	8		90	12	0

At our table, common with most of the room, South opened a weak NT. Against a weak no-trump, 17 points is more than adequate for a penalty double - you are likely to have the balance of the points and your high cards are situated well for the defence. On this hand, even if all of East's points were instead with North, the new North hand would look something like this:

9832
KQJT
73
QJ7

You will see that it's not unreasonable to see EW making 7 tricks in defence - 3 spades, 2 diamonds and 2 clubs. Whoever said partner has to have points!

Our auction continued as follows:

N	E	S	W
	P	1NT	X
XX*	P	2♣*	X
2♥	X		

North's redouble just forced South to bid 2♣ - I (sat West) doubled again over the 2♣, this time just showing continued willingness to penalise the opponents. North ran to their strongest suit with 2♥ and, with my partner doubling this time, NS were doomed to a big penalty. South, with nowhere better to play, ultimately scored just 4 tricks in 2♥x, winning 2 hearts, 1 club and 1 on an endplay at the end.

Of the 12 tables that played the board, only two played in 2♥x, whereas four escaped undoubled. Four more saw 1NT played by EW, most likely due to NS playing a Strong NT. Unsurprisingly, the two tables in 2♥x took 1st and 2nd on the traveller.

As some presumably famous bridge player once said, if you never let through a doubled contract, you're not doubling enough. It can be scary to double without any certainty over whether the opponents are

making, but it's worth remembering that you will often only be doubling in competitive auctions. If you bid constructively up to 3♥, you're expecting to make 3♥. If the opponents bid 3♠, they stand to gain even if they make just seven tricks non-vulnerable; Instead of ruing the luck of those allowed to play their 3♥ in peace, next time be sure to take your 3♠ x-2 and a top for the board. 3♠ x-1 is still an improvement and, should 3♠ x make, chances are the opponents just bidding 3♠ was going to be a bad score anyway. Matchpoints can feel like a game of luck at times, so make the luck work for you!

Schools Cup

June Middleton

SCBA were delighted to welcome 110 children to the Surrey School's Cup event on Friday afternoon 3rd February, a record attendance. The event was hosted by Richard Challoner School in New Malden, Richard Banbury was our volunteer director and Richmond Bridge Club kindly provided us with boards and stationery for the event.

Despite rails strikes we had children from 13 different schools taking part in the competitions including four for the first time, Richard Challoner, Tiffin, Notting Hill Prep and Kings Maths School. However, the lack of trains meant that some teams had to rush off at the end and missed the prize giving which was a shame.

The full results are shown on the SCBA web site, below are pictures of the Schools Cup, Schools Salver and Schools Minibridge winners.

If you know of any other schools that would be interested in taking part in future events, please ask them to get in touch with me via the Surrey website. Schools do not need to be in Surrey - our aim is to promote junior bridge regardless of location.

As these events are getting larger, I would welcome some additional help in running them – if anyone would like to get involved, please get in touch.

June Middleton
Surrey Youth Organiser

Schools Cup Winners: St Pauls 2



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

Schools Salver winners: Haberdashers' Aske's Boys 4



Alex Leslie & Samit Valanju, Aryan Bhamra & Louis Salussolia

Schools Minibridge winners: Tiffin



Finley Collins & Reuben Kirubakaran

♠ 7 6 5 2
♥ K 6 2
♦ J 6 3
♣ K Q 3

♠ K J 9 4
♥ Q J 9 5
♦ 10 4
♣ 10 5 2

♠ 8 3
♥ 10 8
♦ 5 2
♣ A J 9 8 7 6 4

♠ A Q 10
♥ A 7 4 3
♦ A K Q 9 8 7
♣ —

Bidding			
West	North	East	South
—	—	4C	5C
P	5NT	P	6D

Bold bidding perhaps, but South is left with the task of making 6D.

Lead 5C

More challenging than last Newsletter's puzzle – I'd rate this one as medium.

Please send your answers to me at johnmanches74@gmail.com. The deadline is Monday 1st May. The winner will be drawn from all those with a clear, full, correct-first-time solution.

Club News

Bookham Bridge Club

Bookham Bridge club who meet up on Monday and Thursday afternoons are pleased to report that growing numbers are returning to play face to face duplicate bridge. We are regularly now seeing 20 - 21 tables which is brilliant now that covid is hopefully behind us. We have been able to hold several bridge events raising considerable funds for Children in Need, the Ukraine, local charities: Queen Elizabeth Foundation for the Disabled and The Grange. We have also supported The Barn Hall where we play bridge in this lovely period building. Well done Bookham bridge club members! We have had fun and excellent bridge along the way back to normal times!

Selsdon Bridge Club

Selsdon Bridge Club - History Part 1 to 12, 1932 - 2004

During 2017 the bridge club committee decided to restart the publishing of a periodic newsletter for its members. For the first edition an idea was raised to also include an article to cover its formation in 1932 and the early years of operation. The newsletter was published to members through the web site.

The article was well received by members and requests made to extend the club history. Fortunately, there was an abundance of information available as hard copy notebooks of AGM minutes had been kept in the club archives and at a later date also notes of regular committee minutes - many decades before the advent of computers.

Gradually over the next few years, information was extracted from the archives and together with other data from local searches and templates were put together covering numerous time periods for over 70

years of the club evolution. These have now all been published on the web site with the aim later this year to bring the history to the present day.

The history can be viewed at [Selsdon Bridge Club, Croydon, Surrey, England](#)

Try Teams

[Douglas Wright](#)

We would like to invite you to attend some TRY TEAMS events, when we will introduce you to playing Teams on RealBridge. You will be given the opportunity of playing with your partner. The whole idea of TRY TEAMS is for you to enjoy a very friendly way of playing bridge. If and when you enjoy playing teams, you may choose to play in one of the many Surrey Leagues from Novice to Division 1.

We have a fun way of introducing you to TRY TEAMS which is by playing in a Snakes & Ladders game!

26 June Monday 7pm Online

All you have to do is to Register as a Pair and we will do the rest. Please Register by clicking on:

www.3countiesbridge.com

We also have TRY TEAMS events "In Person" in Hurtmore and Leatherhead, easily accessible from A3 and M25 respectively:

15 June Thursday 7pm Hurtmore - The Squirrel

19 June Monday 7pm Leatherhead - The Institute

Please go to www.3countiesbridge.com to Register.

Teaching

[Douglas Wright](#)

Bridge Teaching

All your Club Chairs were invited to an Online Seminar 23 February on Club Teaching. Yes we are looking for players, who would like to try their hand at Supervising Play and Teaching. If you would like to be trained as a Teacher please ask your Club to sponsor you at the next Club Teacher Training course 22 / 23 April at Horsham BC. You can help rejuvenate your Club and improve your bridge at the same time by Supervising / Teaching.

If you would like any further information please contact:
email douglaswright@3countiesbridge.com or phone 07801 989630

BridgeWhiz

You can now sign up your children and grandchildren ages 11 to 16 for free Online Bridge Learning and Playing.

<https://bridgewhiz.org/>

Free Beginner Bridge Taster Sessions

Invite your friends, relatives, neighbours, enemies to a Free Taster Session. Book them into the free Taster Session by going to www.3countiesbridge.com and clicking on

Taster Session

When they enjoy the Taster Sessions before the summer they will then be able to join numerous courses in September.

Improver and Advanced Seminars

3 Counties Bridge would like to offer to all Surrey Bridge players the opportunity to Improve their bridge by attending Online Improver Seminars given by Douglas Wright or Online Advanced Seminars given by Chris Stableford.

We have just finished a programme of 10 Seminars for both Improvers and Advanced Players. We are now planning a new series of Seminars. If you would like to attend and also specify the Topics that you would like covered, please get in touch with Douglas Wright douglaswright@3countiesbridge.com 07801 989630. If you wish to Register Online please click on: www.3countiesbridge.com

Advanced Seminars Wednesdays 19.30

with Chris Stableford

Please click here for more details and to book

1 Mar Completing the Auction

15 Mar Slam Bidding RKCB

29 Mar Declarer Play - Trump contracts

3 May Two Suited Overcalls

17 May Weak 2s and OGUST

For details of other Seminars please go to www.3countiesbridge.com

Double Dummy Puzzle #16 – Answers and Winner John Manches

DD No 16

The puzzles this month were easier, hoping that we would hear from a number of readers who have not responded before. This was not altogether the case however, although we are pleased to welcome two new responders to our group of regulars, some of whom may have found the hands insufficiently challenging.

Hand 1 (gentle)

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

South to make 3NT
Lead ♠7

♦KQ must clearly be played before using ♣Q entry to dummy to reach ♦A, but the key is to realise that the club suit is blocked. South must therefore duck the spade lead as well as the (assumed) spade continuation so that dummy's blocking ♣9 can be thrown under ♠A on the 3rd round and the way becomes clear to run off the 5 club tricks needed for the contract. If opponents switch to clubs at T2, South should win in hand and clear ♦KQ before then playing a losing 2nd round of spades, preserving his ♠A for the unblock on the 3rd round. If opponents switch to hearts South will come to 2 heart tricks and make his contract without needing the club unblock.

Hand 2 (gentle)

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

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

This hand is a good introduction to squeeze play for those unfamiliar with it. After ♦Q-K-A, a club switch by East at T2 will defeat the slam but any other lead enables South to preserve the vital ♣A entry to dummy and West comes under more and more pressure as South runs off a string of hearts. Several variations are possible, but after a Heart return at T2 (say) followed by 5 more rounds of hearts the cards remaining could be as shown below. When ♥4 is led, West has no discard remaining that does not enable South to establish his 12th trick with ♠10, ♦10 or ♣J.

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

Many thanks to all who submitted solutions. The prize for this month was restricted to those who have not won before. Congratulations to David Shore as winner of DD No 16, and who now joins our list of prize winners.

Guildford Café Bridge

Please put in your diary Guildford Cafe Bridge 5 October 2023. This is the biggest single Charity Bridge event in the UK, which raises £5000, where we are expecting at least 240 players playing bridge. You and your partner will play 4 boards in 6 out of the 15 restaurants in Guildford and also have a fabulous lunch. We are hoping to raise in excess of £5000 for:

The Fountain Centre

<https://www.fountaincentre.org>

Please join in and have a great time. Due to increasing demand for places at Guildford Cafe Bridge we are planning on having two events in 2024.

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

And finally.....

The next newsletter will come out towards the end of June. 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 Coronation celebrations? Send me pictures.

[Julia Brough](#)

Editor

