

<u>Surrey County Bridge Association</u>

Newsletter # 49, Summer 2023



Introduction Tim Warren

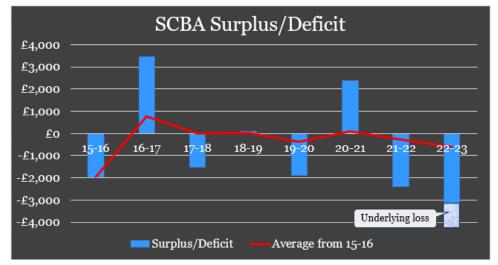
Welcome to our Summer newsletter. Last time, I talked about how the age distribution of EBU members means we need to get many more people learning to play and progressing onto playing in bridge clubs. Teaching and teachers are key, and here you can read about some initiatives in this area.

Financially, one of the key features of the post-Covid bridge landscape is that online events carry much less risk to the organiser than hiring major halls, etc. In view of this, we felt we didn't need to maintain SCBA's reserves at the level they'd previously been, about £30,000. We decided to use these reserves to fund investment in the county's bridge.

We embraced this with some gusto. As well as our usual funding of junior bridge, we made our leagues, Lady Rose Cup and various other events free to enter. As a

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result, we made a loss of around £3,200 in FY22-23. In fact, the underlying loss was £4,200, masked by a generous donation from Chobham BC when it folded. You can see here how this fits into recent history:



We feel we need to take it a bit slower in future years, so with reluctance will resume collecting the 2p Pay-to-Play (P2P) levy from bridge clubs this autumn. We'd suspended the levy back when Covid began, as a means of helping our hard-hit clubs.

This should raise about £2,700 in a full year, which we aim to use primarily to fund junior bridge. It will be especially needed this

year as, in addition to running our Surrey Schools Cup and co-funding the South-East Counties junior event, we'll be helping three Surrey youngsters to attend the junior World championships later this month.

We still intend to continue investing in bridge from our reserves, so I hope to say more in the next edition.

Calendar

Sept 23rd SCBA Green Pointed Swiss Teams

Godstone Village Hall

Sept 24th SCBA Green Pointed Swiss Pairs

Richmond Bridge Club

Making a Claim

Richard Banbury

Claims are an accepted part of the game – helping to speed things up and avoid wasting time. Online they also help avoid the risk of an unfortunate misclick! However faulty claims are often the cause of dispute at the table – sometimes causing a lot of unnecessary ill-feeling.

Once a claim is made further play is suspended – if things are disputed then the players can agree to play on – but if they do, they can't complain if the claimant changes their line of play to address the cause of any problem. The claimant can't insist on playing on – all the players must agree.

Playing on can never be to the advantage of the non-offending side – instead they should call the TD who will stop play and give them the benefit of any doubt. These situations can be easily avoided – but when things go wrong do call the TD and accept their ruling without undue argument!

Claims usually cause problems for one of two reasons:

- (A) There is a trump outstanding and the claimant hasn't referred to it (ie apparently forgotten)
- (B) The claim is made with little or no explanation

So to avoid any issues don't take any shortcuts — make sure you refer to any missing trumps and clearly explain your line of play. An extra 10 seconds of explanation is enough to avoid many of the pitfalls — and it also is less intimidating for your inexperienced opponents. The TD won't accept any "clarification" of the stated line of play after the fact.

When dealing with a faulty claim the TD will proceed on the basis that the claimant has already made an error (by not claiming correctly) – and therefore may be assumed to be capable of making other errors too. The claimant may say that it is totally obvious what their line of play would be – but if its so obvious then they shouldn't have had any problem with making a valid claim!

The TD should assume the poorest option for the line of play – but can't assume something that would be totally illogical – and they should rule in favour of the non-offending side when there is room for doubt.

Have Your Say

Voice From the Deep (NGS 2)

If I may be allowed to address you again I must begin with a confession. For it seems I'm now sailing under a false flag since the EBU has recently seen fit to promote me from NGS 2* to NGS 3*. But not to worry - the doctor has prescribed some very strong medicine to combat the worst effects of the consequent vertigo.

Anyway, now that the worst of the plague years is behind us (we hope) it would seem that debating the respective merits of on-line v "face-to-face" has become rather less fashionable. Nonetheless some of the elements of the argument as found in various publications, including this one, still warrant challenging.

Several articles make very compelling cases in favour of playing on-line. Monetary savings in terms of travel, hall hire. Energy savings in terms of assembling and disassembling tables, catering preparations etc etc. Bridge efficiency in terms of automatic scoring, elimination of revokes and other infractions, instant display of hands and so on and so on.

All these arguments are impeccable and incontrovertible.

BUT

They are generally made by contributors from the higher echelons of the NGS system - those who inhabit the remote penthouse suites - far removed from those of us who reside "below stairs".

And consequently the arguments are based from the perspective of those who play in leagues or in county/national tournaments.

We have the option of 5 bridge venues each week, under the auspices of three separate sets of "management", one of which is EBU affiliated - hence the NGS ranking. Most weeks we get to three or four of them where attendance ranges from 4 - 7 tables. Allowing for a small element of overlap and on the other hand for the fact that it's not the same bunch of people who show up each week, we must be acquainted with a hundred or so keen bridge players.

To our certain knowledge no more than half a dozen of them ever take part in leagues or wider competitions. It's true that some resorted to on-line play during the plague years but it was a temporary expedient and nearly all have abandoned it now that they are once again able to play "properly".

Another feature of the on-line/face-to-face discussions has been a concern that standards of play in many bridge clubs are stagnating or declining, making them less attractive to the expert players.

"So what" would say most of us.

For we should not forget that there are two words in the expression "bridge club". And the "club" is at least as important as the "bridge". And a club is surely an organisation where like-minded people go to indulge in a mutually enjoyable activity/interest. It's not something which necessarily strives perpetually for excellence.

This is not to say that none of us are competitive. We most certainly are. But that competitive ambition is generally confined to seeing if this week we've managed to get ahead of Peter and Joan or whether anybody has dislodged Mary and Ted from top place.

In short we, the overwhelming majority, go to enjoy ourselves and are indifferent to leagues, competitions and standards of play. We are content to play in the 4th division and harbour no aspirations for promoting ourselves to the Premiership.

Long may it remain so.

Richard Granville Ackland

Encouraging F2F sessions at clubs

There has been a slow return to face-to-face bridge since lockdown and, whilst we now have excellent computer applications which allow us to get close to the real thing, I am keen to see more bridge over the table . I have been pushing in Farnham Bridge Club to return to face to face, at least on some occasions. Currently the two excellently run clubs in Farnham, Farnham and Bourne Bridge Clubs, have coalesced to three evenings a week with Farnham running two evenings on RealBridge, Mondays and Wednesdays, and Bourne arranging face to face in the local Methodist Church Hall in Central Farnham on Thursdays; this has proved to be a very convenient location, good free parking nearby and usually up to 12 tables on most Thursdays. Before lockdown each club ran 2 evenings per week and other competitions.

It would be really good to increase the opportunities for face-to-face bridge in our locality but I accept that the convenience of being able to play at home, avoiding the drive and traffic and a late night for some, and to stay playing at the same club even after moving to a different part of the country have appeals but nothing beats being at the table. Being able to chat to friends, note the hesitations and ask questions close up, avoiding breaks in play when the internet goes down, being able to thank the director and scorers, sharing a glass of wine or beer after the event all add another dimension. So I am all in favour of increasing the number of face-to-face opportunities but realise that we have to do this in the right way and at the right pace.

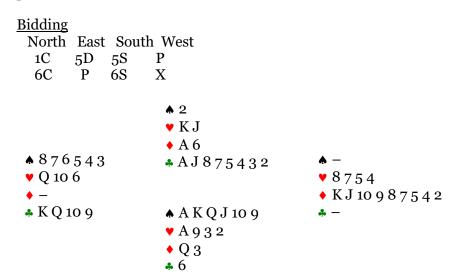
Simon Foale

Prize Double Dummy Puzzle #18

John Manches

This month's Double Dummy problem is spawned from a puzzle sent to me by Andy Poole. I rate it as difficult – well all puzzles are a lot easier when you see the way through. It features the sort of distribution that only seems to crop up in puzzles but I hope you enjoy it.

Please send your answers to me at johnmanches74@gmail.com. The Deadline Date is July 31st. The winner will be drawn from all those with a clear, full, correct-first-time solution. The prize, which is open to all Surrey members, will be free entry to one of our county competitions for the winner and partner of choice.



South to make 6S doubled Lead KC

Congratulations

Surrey

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



Mary Edwards Selsdon – Tony Cherrett & Steve Irwin

County Pairs Cup William Clennell & Dominic Cooke

County Pairs Plate Hal Hazine & June Middleton

Mixed Pairs Janet Cahm & Pat Bohan

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

of St Pauls

Schools Minibridge Finley Collins & Reuben Kirubakaran of Tiffin

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



National

Peter Lee and Dave Norman for winning the National Pairs

This was Dave's first success in the National Pairs, but Peter's fifth, the previous four being with Bob Rowlands. We understand that five wins, which Bob also achieved, is the most anyone has achieved. Dave Norman has written up a couple of hands. See 'Surrey Pair Wins National Pairs' later in this newsletter.

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

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

Recruiting New Players to the Wonderful Game of Bridge

There are some really exciting activities planned for complete Beginners. We would like to ask all Surrey members to find at least one Novice. Please ask your friends, sons, daughters, nephews, nieces and neighbours to attend a Free Taster Session

We have "In Person" and "Online" Taster Sessions. We have MiniBridge courses. We have a programme of Beginner Lessons "In person" across the county and "Online" every day of the week to suit every ones availability.

After Learning Online, when the players and the Teachers / Clubs are ready we will send the players back to the Teachers / Clubs to grow their membership.

PRESENTS

Please give your friends, relatives and neighbours a

PRESENT

of a

FREE BRIDGE TASTER SESSION

We are now recruiting for our next series of courses both

Online and Face to Face

Either Register them or ask them to Register

Beginner Taster

Improver Taster

You / they will receive an email confirming their present.

Wimbledon BC - MiniBridge course starting Thursday evening 20th July 7pm? A 5

week introduction to the basics of the game through minibridge. Learn card play, scoring and tactics.

Contact: Hilary Stewart candh12@aol.com

During the next couple of months Richmond BC will run a few F2F tasters introducing Minibridge for new beginners ahead of their courses starting in the autumn.

Contact: Richard Banbury Manager Richmond BC manager@richmondbridgeclub.com

If you have any questions please contact Douglas Wright 3 Counties Bridge www.3countiesbridge.com 07801 989630 01428 717869

Surrey Pair Wins National Pairs

Big congratulations to Peter Lee and Dave Norman who were amongst the pairs selected from the County Pairs to represent SCBA in the National Pairs.

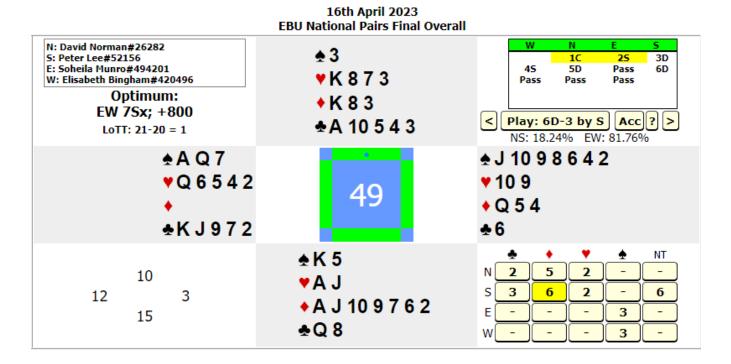


They have kindly written up a couple of hands for us.

Board 49

A difficult play hand

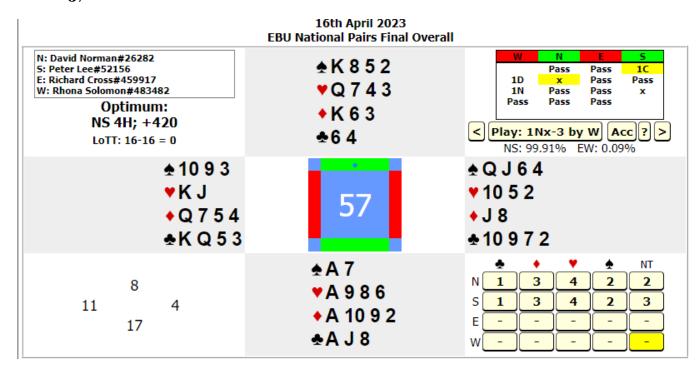
Love all Dealer N



East's bid of 2S is weak

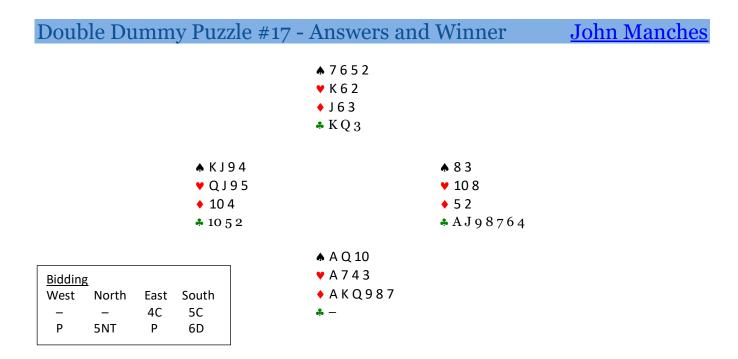
West led the Ace of spades, followed instantly by the club two after East played the two of spades. Not believing that West would lead away from the club King with a spade being a safe alternative, Peter rose with the Ace, and finessed the Jack of hearts. This lost to the Q, West (who started with a 3-5-0-5 shape) then cashed the club King on which East pitched his other heart, then receiving a heart ruff for -150. Not a great start. One can still make after playing the club Ace, if one gets the trumps right, then squeezing West in hearts and clubs.

Board 57



This hand is likely to go on record as surely the lowest penalty pass, as well as being a contender for the worst bid ever made in a National final.

At favourable vulnerability Peter opened 1♠ holding ♠A7 ♥A986 ♦A1092 ♠AJ8 playing 5 card majors and a weak NT. My LHO overcalled 1♠, doubled by Dave to show 4-4 in the majors. After RHO passed, I passed for penalties thinking that we would get 500 if we had game on and 200 if we didn't. The diamond overcaller, holding ♠ 1093 ♥KJ ♠Q754 ♠KQJ3 (!!), now removed to INT which, doubled, went for a fully deserved 800.



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

Lead 5C

West's club lead at T1 is important in giving the extra entry needed to dummy. Dummy's KC is covered by AC. Trumps are drawn, dummy entered with JD, and QC then played giving a key discard from the South hand. A third round of clubs is ruffed and the remaining trumps then run off. The play has been described as the Belladonna Coup; like a repeating squeeze it conjures two tricks out of apparently nothing. Its origin seems to be uncertain but is generally attributed to Georgio Belladonna from a highly praised hand he played in 1973. Onlookers were somewhat taken aback when he discarded 10S on QC.



West needs to guard both Hearts and Spades; when the last trump is played he is in an impossible position:

- i) If he discards a Spade, dummy discards a Heart. AS followed by QS set up 2 spade winners in dummy with KH as entry.
- ii) If he discards a Heart, dummy discards a Spade, AK is followed by a third heart. West wins and has to lead into South's AQ with South's last heart giving him the 12th trick needed.

Many thanks to all who submitted solutions.

Correct solutions were received from Richard Fedrick, Frances Hinden, Simon Foale, Bomi Kavarana, Robert Michelmore, Andy Poole, Robert Warriner and Tony Quilley

Congratulations to Tony Quilley who wins free entry to one of our county competitions for himself and partner of choice.

Beginner and Improver Lesson programmes

Douglas Wright

Surrey Bridge F2F Autumn Term 2023 - 2024

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	10.30 - 12.30 Wimbledon Term 3 Terry Hewitt	10.00 - 12.00 Arford DW	10.30 - 12.30 Wimbledon Terry Hewitt	10.00 - 12.00 Churt DW		Learning Weekends dates tbd	Learning Weekends dates tbd
	10.00 - 12.00 Guildford Amanda Dowding (first)	10.30 - 12.30 Esher SAL Gitte S	10.00 - 12.00 Dorking YM	10.00 - 12.00 Farnham RS ??	10.00 -12.00 HankleyCommon DW		
	10.00 - 13.00 Caterham Gill Howells 26 Sep	10.30 -12.30 Wimbledon LB	10.00-13.00 GodstoneTony Cherritt 28 Sep	10.00 - 13.00 New Haw Tony Cherritt 29 Sep			
			10.00 -12.00 Richmond Richard 10.30 - 12.30				
		10.00 - 12.00 Richmond Lyn & Glen	Esher SAL Gitte S				
Afternoon	14.00 - 16.00 Farnham RS / DW	13.30 - 15.30 Esher SAL Gitte S	13.30 - 15.30 Esher SAL Gitte S				
	16.00 - 18.00 Effingham Golf Club DW	16.00 / 16.30 Guildford Vivien Sale / DW/	15.00 - 17.30 Midhurst DW				
	13.30-15.30 Wimbledon Tim & Naomi						
School	15.15 - 16.45 George Abbot	16.10 - 17.30 Tormead Senior Douglas	15.50 - 17.00 Tormead Junior	15.50 - 17.00 TormeadJun+ Lanesborough			
Evening	19.00 - 21.00 Leatherhead DW	19.00 - 21.00 Farnham DW	19.30 - 21.30 Woking SAL Gitte S	19.00 - 21.00 Hurtmore+Frensham DW	19.00 - 21.00 Guildford AD		
	19.30 - 21.30 Horsham/Woldingham Jim Downes/Tony Cherrett 19 Sep	19.00-21.00 Richmond Margaret Oct		19.00 - 21.00 Farnham MK			
	19.00 - 21.00 Guildford Amanda Dowding (first)	19.00 - 21.00 Farnham MK	19.30 - 21.30 East Horsley ?? DW	19.00 - 21.00 Wimbledon Hilary Stewart		douglaswright@3countiesbridge.com 3 Counties Bridge 01428 717869 07801 989630 www.3countiesbridge.com	
	19.00-21.00 Wimbledon TerryHewitt	19.30-21.30 Wimbledon Niall		19.00 - 21.00 Richmond Richard			
	19.00 -21.00 Richmond Richard	19.30 - 21.30 Woking SAL Gitte S					

Beginners Improvers Consolidation Improvers Plus Seminars More Advanced

Duplicate Play Sessions & Supervised Play

Bridge Online Autumn Term 2023

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	09.30 Jack Stocken						
	09.45 Room B & A No Fear Bridge Practice	10.00 - 12.00 Douglas Wright 19 Sep	09.30 - 10.30 Jack Stocken	09.45 Room B & A No Fear Bridge Practice		10.00 -12.00 Mark Madeley Supervised Play	
	11.00 - 12.00 Jack Stocken 8 Oct		10.00 - 12.00 Manda Kimbery 20 Sep	10.00 - 12.00 ?????????? 21 Sep	10.00 - 12.00 ?????????? 22 Sep	10.00 - 12.00 Beginner Catch Ups 23 Sep	
Afternoon	14.00 - 16.00 Nick Wallbridge 18 Sep	14.00 - 16.00 Mark Madeley 19 Sep	14.00 -15.00 Duplicate Pairs Reviews	16.00 -18.00 Supervised Play Mark Madeley			
	14.00 - 16.00 Mark Madeley 18 Sep	15.00 -17.15 Duplicate Pairs	14.00 - 16.00 Mark Madeley 20 Sep	14.00 - 16.00 Mark Madeley 21 Sep	15.00 & 15.10 No Fear Bridge Gentle Duplicate		
	16.00 - 18.00 Manda Kimbery	17.15 - 18.00 Reviews	14.00 - 16.00 EBED Relaxed Duplicate 12		17.00 - 18.00 Reviews		
Schools	16.30 - 18.00 BridgeWhiz Michael Rushworth	16.30 - 18.00 BridgeWhiz ????	16.30 - 18.00 BridgeWhiz Mark Madeley	16.30 - 18.00 BridgeWhiz Michael Rushworth		16.30 - 18.00 BridgeWhiz Catch Ups (11.30 EST)	
	19.00 - 20.30 Bridgewhiz Danny Hamilton		18.00 India Leeming				
Evening	19.00 - 21.00 Nick Wallbridge	19.00 - 21.30 No Fear Bridge Social (Practice table)	19.30 - 22.00 Improver Pairs+Reviews	19.00 - 21.00 Nick Wallbridge	19.00 - 21.00 Mark Madeley SOCIAL TEAMS		18.00 -20.00 Mark Madeley(Rota) Supervised Play
	19.30 - 21.30 Michael Rushworth	19.00 - 21.00 Mark Madeley 19 Sep	19.30 - 21.30 Douglas Wright 27 Sep or Chris Stableford 11 Oct				
	19.00 - 21.00 Supervised Play		19.00 - 21.00 Manda Kimbery			douglaswright@3countiesbridge.com	
			19.00 - 21.00 Michael Rushworth			4 Nations Bridge 01428 717869 07801 989630 www.3countiesbridge.com	

Beginners	
Improvers Consolidation	
Improvers Plus	

Seminars More Advanced
Duplicate Play Sessions & Supervised Play

New Teachers <u>Douglas Wright</u>

We are looking for new young teachers who would like to teach "In Person" and also other young teachers who would like to teach youngsters "Online" on the BridgeWhiz programme.

Train to be a Bridge Teacher

Have you or any of your club members ever thought about becoming a bridge teacher?

Why not join one of the upcoming <u>Club Teacher Training courses</u> run by English Bridge Education & Development (EBED).

For 2023 the course dates are:

Exeter Library 16/17 September 2023 Aylesbury (EBU HQ) 5/6 October 2023

Farnham 9/10 December 2023(If there is sufficient local demand)

Horsham 13/14 April 2024

The 2-day courses give aspiring bridge teachers the skills to teach bridge effectively. As an EBU affiliated club, you are eligible for discounts or concessionary places. If you are interested, please contact Mark on 01296 317 218 (<u>mark@ebedcio.org.uk</u>).

Any questions please ask douglaswright@3countiesbridge.com 07801 989630

BridgeWhiz

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

bridgewhiz.org

Charity Events

Guildford Café Bridge

We have 50 Pairs who have entered already. Come and join them and have a wonderful day out, lunch and helping our local Charities.

5 OCTOBER GUILDFORD CAFE BRIDGE

GUILDFORD CAFE BRIDGE

in aid of

The Fountain Centre at St Luke's Cancer Centre

in the

Royal Surrey County Hospital

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

Please sign up now

Guildford Café Bridge in aid of The Fountain Centre

Now accepting bookings

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

Cross Farm Barn, Shackleford

Shooting Star Chase

Bridge Lunch in aid of Shooting Star Chase on Thursday 20th July 2023

10.30am - 3pm

Cross Farm Barn, Shackleford, GU8 6AH

ticket £25.00 (to include coffee and home made cake, delicious lunch with a glass of wine, prizes and raffle)

Contact Louise Healy 01483 898539 or

louise.healy605@btinternet.com

♥ Bridge Lunch Poster 2023.pdf♥

And finally......

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

Julia Brough

Editor

