



Surrey County Bridge Association

Newsletter # 52, Spring 2024

Introduction

Tim Warren

Two entirely different topics this time.
Firstly, the exciting one:



In recent weeks, the EBU has been telling us all about their upcoming [Festival of Bridge](#), called Bridge - It's a Big Deal! If you haven't seen it, the plan is that, during w/b 9 Sep 2024, "clubs, counties and players will join together to put on events" to raise funds for [Cancer Research UK](#) "which in addition to being great fun for players will raise the profile of the game of bridge in the community".

Within SCBA, we think this is a great idea, and will be encouraging clubs in Surrey, both affiliated and non-affiliated, to join in. But this isn't just something for clubs to organise. Many of our members take part in activities other than bridge, too – golf, tennis, tiddlywinks ... – so why not run an informal event to raise money among that set of friends?

There are [lots of ideas here](#) for what you might do, including [introducing those who don't yet play](#), but as the EBU says "feel free to go off piste". The key is to decide you'll go for it.

In the meantime, if you'd like to contact us about this, we'd love to hear from you – email [Shirley Pritchard](#) or [me](#).

And now the slightly more mundane topic: we've been wrestling with how to hold our AGMs. Our Constitution requires that they "be held in Surrey not later than the end of July every year". During Covid, we had no option but to hold them online, whatever the Constitution said. But they aren't the most exciting of events and by last year very few people were turning up. After some debate, we've decided to propose to members that we follow the example of some other counties and, in effect, conduct the AGM for 23-24 by email. I'll let all members know in due course how we see it working.

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I hope to see you at our County Pairs at Richmond BC on Sunday 21 April, when with luck it might be a bit drier and sunnier than the last few months.

Ed: Let me know your clubs plans for the Festival of Bridge for the next newsletter!

*AND! As well the County Pairs don't forget to hold your clubs heats for the **Mary Edwards** (final May 12th) – club pairs champions, and the **Wanborough Cup** (final June 9th) – club teams champions.*

Calendar

Apr 21 st	County Pairs and Plate	Richmond
May 12 th	Mary Edwards	Wimbledon
June 9 th	Wanborough Cup	Wimbledon
July 7 th	AGM	by email
Sept 21 st	Green Pointed Teams	Oxted School
Sept 22 nd	Green Pointed Pairs	Richmond

Some Practical Tips!

Richard Banbury

Directors are used to hearing all about slow play (as well as too hot & too cold – or too noisy – or too dark). At the same time teachers are always reminding their students to take their time and make a plan at the start of the hand. Saving time with the admin and organisation leaves more time for planning!

While of course there are some very slow players (& we know who they are) the issue is usually caused by inattentiveness or bad habits – rather than actual slow play of the cards.

- When you sit down greet the opponents and tell them the summary of what systems you play.
- Count your cards carefully when you take them out of the board.
- Make sure you alert (or announce) your partner's bids promptly – even when you may feel its obvious – not everyone plays the same conventions as you – and they shouldn't have to drag it out of you or lose time by calling the TD when you didn't bother to alert.
- If you are on lead – make the lead face down and ask “any questions” (in practice this is a coded courtesy saying “Is it me on lead?” – do all of this before filling in your score card or sorting out the Bridgmate.
- North should enter the contract details (and lead card if needed) in the Bridgmate at the start of the hand – while everyone can remember what it is & to save discussion later.
- At the end of the hand – agree how many tricks have been made before picking up your cards and check what North puts in the Bridgmate before you just press “accept” .
- Don't read out every score on the Bridgmate for the benefit of the next table – you should discuss (aka chastise ?) partner's perceived errors at a later date.
- At the end of the round put the boards in the right order first and then pass them on the right way round – and move immediately when the director says not a couple of minutes later when you have finished chatting.

None of these things are rocket science – but they help keep things moving and avoid the TD having to resolve totally avoidable situations – all of which burns up their time and yours.

Don't forget that when partner fails to follow suit you can ask “Having no xxxxx, partner?” – a simple enough way to prevent established revokes.

When declarer says eg “Play a Heart” – dummy mustn’t waste time asking “which Heart” – since “play a card” simply means “play the smallest card” – having said that, Declarer can’t change their mind and play something else anyway.

Get into the habit of making claims to save time – but do always state what you are going to do (especially if it is blindingly obvious to you) – ie if you intend to draw the last trump then say so!!

If you want to improve your bridge play then consider joining a club director training course (even if you have no intention ever to direct) – you are guaranteed to improve your knowledge of the Laws of Bridge and come to appreciate how bad habits can impact on everyone else in the session.

Richard as our regular contributor on TD matters will also be running three face to face refreshers at Richmond on :

Sat May 25th 2pm

Thurs May 30th 10am

Sat June 29th 2pm

These are open to non-members and there is a nominal cost of £5 to cover refreshments - pls book via this link:

https://www.bridgewebs.com/cgi-bin/bwoq/bw.cgi?club=richmond&pid=display_page146

Finding the Swing

Dominic Cooke

This hand was a triumph orchestrated by William Clennell – I was sitting opposite, along for the ride. We were finishing up a middling set in the penultimate match of the Tollemache, desperate for a win. Red on green as dealer, Will picked up ♠ - ♥Q86 ♦T9875 ♣AKQT5 and set about some bold bidding.

He started with an asystemic 1♣ to potentially direct the lead, and quickly saw 3♣ come down on his left. I slipped in a takeout double, and set Will’s mind whirring. When his RHO raised to 4♣, Will decided that his 11-count was worth forcing the hand to the 5-level, and bid 4NT to show a two-suiter. Both opponents passed as I picked 5♦, leaving Will to pick every bit of information he needed from this auction:

N (Will)	E (Julian Wightwick)	S (Me)	W (Graham Hazel)
1♣	3♣	X	4♣
4NT	P	5♦	P
?			

11 points, 3 quick tricks, 5 losers – plenty of players would take one look at Will’s hand and pass here, happy to find a fit. A fair few would say that 4NT was too much! But Will was looking over the auction with his eyes on a swing, not just a plus score. He knew neither opponent had tried 5♠ despite their favourable vulnerability; their fit was surely 10 or 11 cards, rather than 12, leaving me without particularly short spades. My takeout double, then, had to be based on some genuine strength rather than distribution. With strength and a spade stop, I would have bid 3NT on the first round rather than risk a double, so it was clear here that I wouldn’t have wasted values in spades. In addition, I had picked diamonds rather than clubs at the five level, even though for a 1♣ opening Will would usually have shorter diamonds – in other words, we had a real fit on our hands. Will realized he could be facing a

hand like ♠xx ♥AKxx ♦KQxxx ♣Jx – more than enough for slam, but where I would be unable to take action for fear of quick spade losers. He steeled his nerves and bid 6♦.

It's worth adding that Will's bid wouldn't just win if slam was making – he was on the lookout for other pickups as well. The opponents would not be expecting him to stretch so far on so little; they could easily be pushed into a hopeless sacrifice against a non-making slam. It's easy to imagine an opponent looking at a void diamond and taking the push to 6♠, only to see his partner put down an offside ♦KQx with a scowl.

Here, though, Julian and Graham left us to ourselves. Opposite my ♠Q5 ♥K543 ♦AKQJ6 ♣97, and with clubs splitting 4-2, slam was unbeatable. Will's judgement had won us 8-IMP swings against both other tables, where NS had defended a 5♠ sacrifice each time. It did not, unfortunately, win us the match, but we left with our heads held high.

Have Your Say

Voice from the Deep

Being bereft of inspiration it was a joy to discover that your December issue provided no less than three items which came to the aid of the stricken party.

Two of them lamented the decline of green-pointed tournaments and/or the EBU's handling of them.

And so I conducted a poll. Now I perfectly well acknowledge that my polling methods would not pass muster with Mr Gallup, still less with the Electoral Reform Society. Nonetheless my respondents have all been playing in bridge clubs for at least a decade, most of them for much longer than that.

One owned up to having played in such a tournament; the others all had trouble understanding the question either having never heard of green-pointed tournaments, or else, whilst having heard of them, not understanding what they are - which is my position.

The third contribution was the one which described the principle of the "teams of three", which sounds as if it would probably achieve what I assume is its purpose - to have some fun - not so very distant from the individual duplicate, to which I had made reference in the same edition of your newsletter. Coincidentally, and with similar aims, one of the clubs which we attend has recently decided to cut for partners once a month.

As an aside, an even greater coincidence is that about two days after reading the article on "teams of three", I met its creator, someone whom I'd never met before, in an entirely non-bridge context.

Now none of this is to decry either the experts playing in colour-pointed tournaments, nor those who play just for the fun of it without worrying too much about how well they play.

Rather it is to point to the gulf which exists between the two.

And nothing wrong with that either. Long live both, say I.

But what may be wrong is what seems to be a widespread assumption amongst the more expert and involved element of the bridge community, the most vocal element, that those who "play for fun" all harbour aspirations to join the "experts" in their tournaments. In my experience this is simply not so, and all the exhortations which we find in bridge magazines and in your newsletters concerning classes, education, improvement etc etc are likely to continue to fall upon deaf ears.

Leave us alone. We're O.K. as we are.

Richard Granville Ackland

Ed: This resonates with me! It is very difficult, if you enjoy something, to think that 'if only they tried' others would also enjoy. This applies equally to curries as well as bridge. So, Richard, I will try to stop 'encouraging' everyone to enter non-club competitions.

Double Dummy Puzzle #21

[John Manches](#)

Double Dummy in the December issue led to some interesting exchanges. The 6C lead was perhaps the gentlest of three that might have been chosen, and the puzzle was not perhaps as difficult as might have first appeared. Some welcome correspondence followed with a few solvers, who were invited to have another go at it with a diamond lead, which some did indeed resolve but which certainly does make it harder. I had thoughts of including it with a diamond lead as a (non-competition) bonus puzzle in the March Newsletter but decided against it as it would not be new to several of our regulars.

DD No 21

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

Contract : 5C by South

Lead = KH, followed by 3H

A number of correct solutions were received that would not have worked on the somewhat harder initial diamond lead – those who enjoy such challenges and have not yet tried it on a diamond lead might like to entertain themselves with it. Solutions available from me on request.

This month's Competition puzzle is above. Please send your answers to me at johnmanches74@gmail.com. I would rate it as tricky.

The Deadline Date is **April 21st**. As usual, 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.

A number of correct solutions were received to this puzzle. Rating it as “difficult” did not perhaps give sufficient acknowledgement to the loyal band of solvers’ skills in recognising and executing squeezes. Three different leads were considered: 6C was selected, perhaps the kindest as it offered a number of routes to success.

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

Contract: 6C by South

Lead = 6C

T1-6 : 3 rounds of trumps followed by 3 rounds of Spades (taking the finesse) leads to this position:

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

T7 : AC, drawing East’s last trump and discarding 8S from dummy, puts pressure on West.

- If West discards a heart: with 2 diamond entries to dummy, AH and a small heart then enables Declarer to establish 9H for the 12th trick.
- If West discards a diamond (uncovering his Q): AK of diamonds establishes the Jack in declarer’s hand with a trump left to reach it.

Congratulations to all those who sent in correct solutions : Andy Poole, Bill Hodgkiss, Frances Hinden, Gerard Thompson, Lorne Anderson, Richard Fedrick, Simon Foale, and Steve Bourton. Andy Poole was the winning name drawn out of the prize hat and wins free entry to one of our county competitions for himself and partner of choice.

Congratulations

Surrey

Surrey Schools Cup

St Pauls Red Team

Henry Huang & Gijs Van Angeren
Adavya Goyal & Anango Prabhat

Surrey Schools Silver Salver

Haberdashers D Team

Alex James & Samuel Robinson
Adhith Padiyar & James Cowan

Surrey Schools Crystal

Cardinal Newman

Joshua Budiongan & Tom Curtayne
Liam Benwell & Finn Aggarwal

Surrey Schools Minibridge

Chalfont St Peters

Girpeet Birring & Dhiani Dosanjh

Teams of Eight

Mayfield Red Team

Richard Fedrick & Andrew Southwell, Richard Granville & Graham Sadie,
Mike Scoltock & Peter Lee, David Norman & David Dawson

They go on to the Garden Cities Regional final on 11th May at Richmond. If they win that they are in the final on 1st June at Coventry.

Dorin Salver

Monday

Michael Cartwright and Philip Richardson, RAC BC



Dorin Salver

Tuesday

Dolly Ahmed and Peter King, Wimbledon BC

Dorin Salver

Wednesday Steve Bourton and Julia Brough, Tudor & Guildford BC



Dorin Salver

Thursday & Overall
Rosemarie Thompson and Richard Hazell, Selsdon BC



Mixed Pairs

Neil & Christine Tomkin



Green Pointed Swiss Pairs

Joint Winners -

Desikan & Bhuma Rangarajan, and
David Arundel & Andrew Bannock



Green Pointed Swiss Teams

Peter Lee & Sally Brock, Barry Myers & Mike Scoltock

Victor Ludorum Elisabeth Bingham

Surrey League

Division 1 Frances Hinden, Peter Lee, Graham Osborne, Mike Scoltock

Division 2 Fionn O'Leary, Pat Bohan, Janet Cahm, Luiz Ronaldo de Oliveira Lima, Huaiyu Fan, Dan O'Farrell

Division 3 **Joint Winners:** Chris Thorn, Jennifer Boud, Valerie Jackson, Martin Lister, Maria Martin, Robert Twin

Joint Winners: Lawrence Penney, Sally Bradbury, Hiroko Canning, Sandra Cape, Neil Higgins, Steve Leach, Christopher Pullan, Penny Webster-Smith

Division 4 Nigel Biggs, Allyson Biggs, Kevin Byrne, Kate Cottrell, Nashat Saridar

Lady Rose Cup Ian Swanson, Charles Chisnall, Bob James and Bill Hodgkiss (Team Swanson)

Lady Rose Plate Paul Chapman, Adrian Ring, Graham Pollack and Andrew Whittome (Team Chapman)

National Congratulations

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.

Tim Chanter & Helen Wildsmith for coming second at Eastbourne in the Mixed Pairs

Surrey Schools Cup

The 2024 Surrey Schools Cup took place on Friday 2nd February at Richard Challoner School in New Malden. We were delighted to welcome 103 students to the school for four competitions. This year we introduced a third tier teams Competition, the Surrey Schools Crystal, so that we could have all play all competitions in each category.

Two new schools, Chalfont St Peters and Cardinal Newman joined the fray for the first time and both had success with Cardinal Newman becoming the first winners of the Crystal and Chalfont St Peters winning the minibridge.

Haberdashers' D team won the Salver and St Paul's Red team triumphed in the School's cup in a late dash. Mark Humphris, the CEO of EBED joined us and presented the prizes.

A big thanks you to Richard Challoner's for again hosting this event, and in particular to the pupils & teacher who helped setting up and clearing away. Richard Banbury was again our volunteer director and coped with four simultaneous events. Richmond Bridge Club provided the Boards and Terry Hewett and Titch Glenday for their help in running the event. If any other schools would like to take part in future events please get in touch with June Middleton.

Surrey Schools Cup St Pauls Red

Henry Huang & Gijs Van Angeren
Adavya Goyal & Anango Prabhat



Surrey Schools Silver Salver

Alex James & Samuel Robinson
Adhith Padiyar & James Cowan

Haberdashers D



Surrey Schools Crystal Cardinal Newman

Joshua Budiongan &
Tom Curtayne
Liam Benwell & Finn
Aggarwal





Turning a difficulty into a disaster

Philip Goldenberg

“*Horresco referens [I shudder to recall]*” begins the passage in Vergil’s *Aeneid* describing the strangling and killing of Laocoon by two giant sea serpents sent by divine wrath. The bidding and play of the following hand could be similarly introduced.

Dir: South Vul: N/S	♠ K 2 ♥ A Q 8 4 ♦ 10 5 3 ♣ A K J 8																																	
♠ -- ♥ K J 7 ♦ A Q J 7 6 4 ♣ Q 10 6 4	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">NORTH</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">WEST</td><td style="text-align: center;">EAST</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">SOUTH</td></tr> </table>	NORTH		WEST	EAST	SOUTH		♠ Q 9 7 5 ♥ 10 6 3 2 ♦ K 8 ♣ 7 3 2																										
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17																																		
13 5																																		
5																																		
♣	♦	♥	♠	N																														
N	-	-	1	5	1																													
S	2	-	2	5	1																													
E	-	-	-	-	-																													
W	-	1	-	-	-																													

South opened 3S. West had two choices: to double or to bid 4D – they chose to double. With reasonable opening points and a strong six-card suit, I would have bid 4D. Others may take the alternative view, as West had tolerance for the other two suits.

I was North. I could have bid 4S. But, with the certainty of another bidding opportunity and the possibility of E/W getting it wrong, I passed.

East had a real dilemma. West’s double suggested a somewhat stronger hand than he had, and E had a genuine stopper in S. So East bid 3NT.

After two passes, I doubled. After a further two passes, West surprisingly decided not to escape to 4D. South, with no outside entries, rightly chose not to lead S, and arbitrarily picked 9C. Dummy covered with the 10, and I won with the J.

I immediately led the KS. East kindly opted to discard 4C from dummy. So I cleared three winning C before leading 2S.

This was the moment of mega-disaster. EAST PLAYED THE QS, thereby invalidating his S stopper. South took six S tricks, by which time dummy had been reduced to K & JH. South, noticing that the KD had not been played, led a low H, and I gratefully took the AQ.

Nine down cost 2,300 non-vulnerable, as opposed to 100 or 300. The N/S pair who scored 1,600 by making 5Sxx with an overtrick (presumably because that East also played the QS too early) were seriously miffed not to score the top that they were certain would be theirs. And the Director sadly declined my request to score the evening in IMPs!

Director's training in Richmond

Richard Banbury

Day 0 – Sept 8th (“Essentials” – ie Introduction)

Day 1 – Sept 15th (Revokes, Leads out of turn, penalty cards, etc)

Day 2 – Oct 6th (Insufficient Bids, Calls out of turn, Judgement Rulings)

Day 3 – Oct 20th (Assessment Day)

Booking is via the EBED website <https://www.ebedcio.org.uk/td-training>

Club News

Dorking

After many Decades Dorking Bridge Club has moved to the Dorking Christian Centre, Church St, Dorking RH4 1DW.

Dorking welcomes bridge players to our regular duplicate bridge evenings.

We are a friendly bridge club with free tea or coffee and biscuits!

We play face to face duplicate bridge every Tuesday evening (7.15pm for 7.30pm, finishing at about 10.00pm). FREE until the end of May!



No Partner? Visitors are always welcome and we have a spare partner system so, if you want to come alone, let Steve know (stevedorking@gmail.com) and he will help pair you up.

We also have special events coming up.

- Cheese and 'alcohol free' wine evening
- Individual tournament

For more information go to <https://www.bridgewebs.com/dorking/>

Farnham and Bourne

ERICA CURRIE & RICHARD CURRIE SWISS PAIRS 11th February 2024

Thank you to all who participated. We lost 3 pairs due to illness, but still had 11 full tables, plus a reserve pair. A very special thank you to Mick Green, who did such a brilliant job of directing and significantly reduced his director fees for the benefit of our local hospice. Thanks also to those who were unable to participate but made donations, which go direct to Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice.

A huge thank you to all who helped make the day a success - organising the plated teas, providing cakes and raffle prizes, purchasing of sandwiches and wraps, helping with set-up and selling raffle tickets, plus setting up the registration system and tracking payments.

The event raised over **£1,110.00** for our local Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice, which is brilliant!

Congratulations to James Bond and David Owen, who won the overall event for the second year running and to Owen Leigh and Colin Jones who came second. Both receive trophies, very kindly donated by Douglas Currie (who also gave a bottle of whisky as a raffle prize!).

The overall results are on the Farnham Bridge club and the Bourne, Farnham Bridge club website plus have been posted to the EBU.

Feedback from participants has been excellent, for both the event and the plated teas.

Mike O'Donnell & Mike Tettenborn

Tudor & Guildford



Congratulations to Alan Cadge and Julia Brough for winning the Club Stratified Sim. Pairs with the highest result over the 4 days.

Selsdon

When three's company and not a crowd!

It seems that at Selsdon Bridge Club we sometimes like to do things a little differently. This is especially true for our "Teams of Three" Championship. It's an annual event and has become something of a favourite with Club members: particularly as it involves a unique movement that was invented by one of our own members, Roger Fellows.

Sadly, this has had to be postponed – a new invitation will be issued when the new date is announced.

Charity Events

YHBC & Camberley Joint Blue Point Swiss Pairs Bank Holiday Monday 6th May 2024

- 6 * 6 Board "Swiss" Pairs matches
- 1pm start (approx 6:00pm finish) with a 30 minute break after 3 rounds
- Richard Banbury directing
- Cost £10 per person with any profits going to Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice (Pay on the day by Card)
- This is our major Fund-Raising event and so plaudits rather than prizes!
- We will be playing F2F at Sandhurst School (YHBC's Venue)

We want this to be a friendly event with a competitive edge and encourage all club members to take part and see what events are like.

Entries to be made via our website:

https://www.bridgewebs.com/cgi-bin/bwor/bw.cgi?club=yateleyhawleybc&pid=display_page48

Café bridge

16th April 2024
(Tue)

Molesey Spring Café Bridge in aid of Momentum
Pre-registration open, email michael@picturehouse.org

8th May 2024
(Weds)

Guildford Spring Café Bridge in aid of The Halow
Project
Now accepting bookings

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 any club celebrations? Send me pictures. Are you planning anything for 'Bridge It's a Big Deal'?

[Julia Brough](#)
Editor