



Surrey County Bridge Association

Newsletter # 39 – September 2020

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Introduction

Tim Warren

We're facing huge and rapid changes in the world of bridge, driven of course by world events and technological change. At our online AGM in July, I was struck by the lively debate we had – what I heard was a lot of people caring deeply about our game, and feeling passionately about its future. As the newly-elected Chairman of SCBA, I look forward to working with our members to help it thrive.

Our previous Chairman, Trevor Hobson, did an excellent job during his five-year stint, and I'm relieved that he's agreed to stay on as President. Tim Green, Meena Samani and Thomas Lundqvist stood down at the AGM, and I thank them for all their efforts, too. Tony Cherrett has taken over our Development role, John Gallagher is our treasurer, and June Middleton is Junior Bridge rep.

But our team isn't full! We especially need someone to take over our Comms and Editor role, but if you'd like to help us in any way, please get in touch, we'll welcome you with open arms.

If you're missing bridge, but haven't yet ventured into the online version, we have loads of help available on our [website](#). If you'd rather speak to someone, [send me an email](#) and I'll get back to you.

In this newsletter, we have articles about hands (have you ever gone for a penalty of -2600?), club news, another Double Dummy puzzle, etc. We've also set out our planned programme for 2020-21, including the usual mix of charity events, teams leagues for Novices to Experts and teams KO events, and our flagship Green Point Weekend, which is coming up at the end of this month. We look forward to meeting you at these, even if it has to be online at the moment.

Forthcoming Calendar

26-27 September - **Green Point weekend**. Usual format of Swiss [Pairs](#) on the Saturday and Swiss [Teams](#) on the Sunday.

14-15 November - **Blue Point weekend**. Qualifying event on the Saturday. The top players from the qualifying event will play on Sunday in an all play all final. Anyone who does not qualify for the final can play in the Swiss Pairs on Sunday. You can just play in the Swiss Pairs if you wish without playing at all on the Saturday.

Because of the uncertainty at present, we are only planning events three months in advance (this is the same as the EBU is doing). We are not planning to run any of our regular events online before March 2021. In December, we will review our online offering for Spring 2021. We still hope to run our flagship County Pairs event online in the New Year, but whether there will be any EBU finals such as the Corwen or Garden Cities in 2021 is impossible to say at the moment.

We are very keen to have your view as to what events Surrey should be offering, especially those that would be sufficiently different from the regular events played in clubs and via the EBU.

A Pairs League has been suggested as something which the County could try. This involves a regular weekly game against players of the same or similar NGS bands. If you would be interested in something like this, or you have any further suggestions of events you would like the county to run then please do get in touch with [Shirley](#), our competitions secretary.

FREE Teams' Competitions!

This year we are offering **free entry** to the following teams' competitions: the Surrey League, the Novice League and the Lady Rose knockout.

If you haven't tried Team Bridge then you've really missed something! Team Events are increasingly popular, we are hoping that by offering free entry we can encourage even more players to experience and enjoy team play. Seriously, what have you got to lose?

The deadline for application is towards the end of September for most of these events.

We have the following offers which cater for all skill levels:

Surrey League (deadline 29 September)

Master points awarded for each match won. We have the following divisions, based on your strength:

- **Division 4:** Intended for improvers, social players. Typically 4 or 5 matches October to April. Final May/June. EBU membership not required.
- **Division 3:** Intended for most club players. Typically 5 or 6 matches October to April. Final May/June.
- **Division 2:** Intended for strong club players. Typically 5 or 6 matches October to April. Final May/June.
- **Division 1:** Blue points awarded for each match won. Intended for the top teams in Surrey, typically NGS Q and above. Entry is usually via promotion from Division 2. 7 Matches October to April.

Novice League (deadline 27 October)

For players having lessons or just starting out. Typically 3 or 4 matches November to April. Final May/June. EBU membership is not required.

Lady Rose Knockout Teams (deadline 28 September)

Green points for every match won. The highest placed team of Surrey Members will represent Surrey in the Pachabo Cup. This is a seeded competition so the top teams only enter in later rounds.

Any team losing in the first two rounds will be automatically entered in the Lady Rose Plate competition where master points are awarded for each match won

The events, above, cater for all levels of ability and experience, so why not give them a try? They are free. We expect people to follow the safety guidance from the Government, which means that, for the time being, all matches should be played online using whatever platform you prefer.

To enter any of these events, please click [here](#).

For more information please click [here](#).

You can email the organisers by clicking the following links: [League Organiser](#); or [Lady Rose Organiser](#).

Surrey League and Knockout Results

Congratulations to the following winners of the various Surrey leagues and knockouts:

- Lady Rose Cup David Norman, David Dawson, Roger Eddleston, Alan Bailey
 Division 1 Frances Hinden (captain), Graham Osborne, Jeffrey Allerton, Peter Lee, Mike Scoltock, Paula Leslie.
 Division 2 Peter Exworthy (captain), Graham Cunningham, Isabel Correia, Cliff Lambe, Hilary Stewart.
 Division 3 Keith Fowler (captain), Malcom Ralston, Alan Smith, Alan Swinton.
 Division 4 Jonathan Prizeman (captain), Manda Kimberly, Joe Cotter, Piers Cooke-Yarborough, Hugh Beadle, Linda Beadle.
 Novice League Elspeth Woolf (captain).

To play in one of this year's leagues (for this year, entry is free), please see previous section.

Junior Bridge

June Middleton

I am delighted to be taking over the junior bridge rep role for Surrey, from Tim Warren. He will be a hard act to follow having built up the Surrey Schools' Cup and started the annual Junior Teach In. All the summer junior camps were cancelled and at present it is not clear what activities will be possible in the coming months. I will shortly be touching base with the schools in the County to see what activities are going to be possible this winter. I have also been asked to join EBED's Youth Advisory Group in Tim's place and am looking forward to seeing if we can create some online activities and learning opportunities for juniors nationally.

Tough Times in the Lockdown League

Alan Cadge

The EBU started the Lockdown League, for Teams of four, at the end of March and it is in its fifth season. There are 10 Divisions, each with about 13 teams. My grandson Ben, aged 13, usually plays with Will, his friend of the same age. When Will was on holiday, I stepped in and this was one of the deals:

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

The bidding was as follows:

South	North
1H	2C
2NT	6NT

Sitting West, you lead ♣6 and take a look. Lo and behold, Ben has ♣K and it wins the first trick, a great start. We're going to beat this contract (I think), because declarer will have to try the heart finesse. Maybe we'll get it two off.

Ben returns a heart (yes!) which declarer wins with the ace. Declarer plays a diamond to the ace, and Ben signals with the 9 that he has two. I now know all the cards held by declarer

and he has nowhere to go. The clubs are played from the top and declarer discards a heart on the third round. I begin to feel uneasy. This is what was left:

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

He ("phil7") continues with the two remaining clubs, discarding two diamonds. Oh-oh, deep trouble beckons. I don't even squirm because I know it's hopeless. I discard a heart and a spade. Three rounds of spades are played by the (previously friendly) declarer and I'm squeezed again.

6NT – bid and made. A progressive triple squeeze, "wp" (online shorthand for "well-played"), a 17 imp swing and the match is lost. It can be tough, even down in Division 8 of the Lockdown League.

Larger Still and Larger

If you read my article in the previous edition about a hand in our NHS Pairs event, you might remember I went seven off, doubled, vulnerable, for -2000. I remarked on how I'd never before gone for such a large amount.

2000 away? Pah, a paltry penalty, a mere bagatelle! In another pairs event a few weeks later, this came up:

<p>♠ A J 7 ♥ 10 8 4 2 ♦ 7 3 2 ♣ 9 5 2</p> <p>♠ - ♥ A J 9 5 3 ♦ A Q J 8 5 ♣ A Q 8</p>	<p>Love All Dealer E</p>	<p>♠ 10 8 4 2 ♥ K Q 7 ♦ 10 9 ♣ K 7 6 3</p>
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W	N	E	S
-	-	P	2♦
X	P	2♠	P
3NT	4♥	X	P
P	P		

As South, my 2♦ was a multi, which usually turns out to be a weak two in a major. So, by the time the bidding fizzled out in 3NT, my partner 'knew' I had a weak two in hearts, and sacrificed. I thought he had a long string of them, and with East having shown my suit I passed the double.

The play is easily summarised ... we went ten off. Much more impressive than seven off, but we weren't vulnerable, so it was only -2600. We'd talked them out of a slam in either red suit, with the grand on a finesse, but 2600 away scored poorly.

The hand throws up some questions:

- Q1. Should I have doubled 2♠ to show my suit?
- Q2. Should I have taken 4♥ out into 4♠?
- Q3. Should I have given up bridge long ago?

The answers to these questions are:

Ans1. On this hand it would have avoided the catastrophe, but on balance I think the answer is No. I've had the oppos play in my suit in similar circumstances, including not long ago (the suit was 1-0-6-6 – what Simon Cochemé, in a recent EBU Magazine, rather wonderfully termed a Hastings).

Ans2. For me, this is more difficult. At the table, I passed quickly, reasoning "there's still a chance West might bid 4♠ with three-card support, and I don't want to give the game away by pausing". With time to reconsider my folly, I think there are arguments on both sides, but 4♠ is the lesser risk. Probably.

Ans3. Among my regular partners, the consensus seems to be: very much Yes. But you might yet find me in online competitions, avidly looking for opportunities to beat my record (minus) score...

Editor's Note: Sadly, I never seem to meet players as generous as Tim! We've all had our moments of unintended generosity at the table, do feel free to share yours (click [here](#) for email address; I am happy to protect your/others' anonymity).

Playing Online

Help Using Bridge Base Online (BBO)

Our Web Manager has created a wonderful booklet to help you with everything you may want to do on BBO - please click [here](#) (sadly it did not help me with my bidding).

How to Find Games

To help you find online bridge games, our website manager has created a page detailing the days of the week and times of play of the various Surrey online bridge clubs. You can access this page by clicking [here](#).

We are delighted that a number of Surrey Clubs have set up “Gentle Bridge” sessions. “Gentle Bridge” is not a term I am fond of, as it sounds as if the event is the bridge equivalent to a leisurely stroll in the park, with frequent stops to sniff flowers and count clouds. The “gentle” bit relates to the level of player – i.e. not the bridge aficionados with their rafts of complicated conventions. The sessions are competitive, almost always good-tempered and, in my view, a necessary step in a player’s bridge evolution.

Each hand you play is scored against all other people who play the same hand. If you score over 50%, you have performed better than average, and vice versa. I found this scoring really helpful in measuring my performance. We very much hope those new to competitive (or, more accurately, comparative) bridge will try one of these sessions. There are various clubs who offer gentle sessions, these are listed on our [home page](#).

Once you are comfortable with gentle bridge, you will realise that your scores will be skewed by the quality of your opposition. If you are playing against a room full of novices, you would expect to score more than average. That one reason shifted me from Gentle Bridge to “NGS Bridge”. NGS is the English Bridge Union’s (EBU) National Grading System. The scoring system is as for Gentle Bridge but, your overall performance for the session is compared against the strength of your opposition. If you perform above par, your NGS will go up, and vice versa. I find this a very good way of monitoring my bridge performance over a period of time. It’s also interesting to see how my NGS compares to my peers.

Only bridge clubs registered with the EBU offer a national grading as only the EBU has the ability to crunch all that data. So, find a Surrey Club that is EBU registered (click [here](#) for a list) and register and play there (some clubs offer free membership to the EBU). You can thank me now or later! Good luck and enjoy!

Improver Declarer Hand

No Fear Bridge

North

♠ A875
♥ AQ8
♦ A43
♣ A52

West

♠ KJ9
♥ KJ
♦ QJT9
♣ Q983

East

♠
♥ T97432
♦ K876
♣ T76

South

♠ QT6432
♥ 65
♦ 52
♣ KJ4

Dealer: South Vul: None Contract: 4♠ by South Lead: ♦Q

South

Pass
2♠
Pass

West

1NT
Pass
Pass

North

Dbl
4♠

East

2♥
Pass

Before planning the play in detail, let's count points. There are 16 points missing and if West's opening lead is genuine East must have ♦K. Thus we can place all of the other high cards with West, except perhaps ♠J or ♥J.

If trumps are 2-1 we can't lose more than a spade, a diamond and a club because we'll be able to finesse confidently against West's ♥K. But if West has three trumps we'll probably need an endplay to make this contract.

We don't want East to lead a club late in the hand, so we allow West to win the first trick. We win the diamond continuation and cash ♠A.

East shows out on this trick, but we're still in control. We ruff dummy's last diamond in hand, finesse ♥Q, cash ♥A and ruff ♥8 in hand. West overruffs and cashes ♠K, but now has to choose between leading away from ♣Q or conceding a ruff and discard. Ten tricks made.

East could have tested us a little by overtaking the opening lead with ♦K and switching to a club, but provided that we avoid the mistake of playing ♣J at trick 2 we'll still make the contract on the same endplay.

Hand supplied by Richard Granville (Board: 2515) for No Fear Bridge.

Play more hands like this at www.nofearbridge.co.uk

Editor Needed!

We urgently need a new editor and Communications Officer, as the incumbent needs to step down by 31 December, for personal reasons.

The role is vital for our communications with members in the bettering of bridge in Surrey. You will be part of a small, friendly Committee and help in achieving our primary objective of “*the organisation, development and encouragement of Contract Bridge in...Surrey*”. You will have lots of scope to really make the role yours and change the format of our output (we are keen to have fresh ideas and input to keep our readers interested).

Full support and handover will be provided by Suleman Akhtar, the outgoing Officer. In addition to participation in our quarterly committee meetings, you will be responsible for editing our newsletters and communicating with our members. These communications are either routine (monthly emails to welcome new members) or ad hoc (e.g. advising members of imminent events).

SCBA is run by a group of volunteers committed to doing our bit for this wonderful game of ours. We are always keen to receive any help from anyone willing to “give back” with the above role or any others. If you are interested in discussing the above, please [email](#) Suleman.

Social Media Help Needed!

We are always seeking ways to get Bridge to more people and to improve our deliveries to existing members. We think the use of social media may be a route to contact, or be of appeal to, new segments of the population. However, this is an area which is not in the skill set of the committee. Therefore, we’re looking for guidance from anyone who understands social media and how it could be used by SCBA.

Your role would be as big as you wanted it: anywhere from a chat with the committee to implementing the decision and, perhaps, joining the committee. As with all the SCBA committee roles, the position is voluntary (i.e. unpaid) but immensely satisfying and fun, working with a small group of like-minded people.

If this is something that you think you can help with, please [email](#) our Communications Officer, Suleman Akhtar.

Prize Double Dummy Puzzle #8

by Tim Warren

A hand is said to be played double dummy if everyone can choose the cards they play with full knowledge of all four hands. For instance, declarer need never lose a finesse to a singleton King offside, because it's clear to all the Ace will drop the King.

	♠ - ♥ A K 6 4 ♦ A Q 10 ♣ A K 6 4 3 2	
♠ K 9 8 6 ♥ 10 9 8 3 ♦ 9 8 4 ♣ 10 8	Contract 6♥ by S Lead ♠6	♠ A Q J 10 5 4 3 ♥ 5 2 ♦ 6 5 ♣ 9 7
	♠ 7 2 ♥ Q J 7 ♦ K J 7 3 2 ♣ Q J 5	

As South, you find yourself in 6♥ (don't ask), to which West leads ♠6.

With 15 top tricks, your first thought is that you might have missed the grand, but that pesky lead means you have to lower your sights. So ... how do you make the contract?

There are no fancy endplays involved, but there are some pitfalls to avoid, so I'm rating this as TRICKY.

The hand comes from a Surrey League match back in February between teams captained by Gordon O'Hair and Tony Richards. In the other room, the contract of 6♦ was more straightforward. Thank you to Tony for spotting its potential as a double dummy puzzle, and to both captains for use of the hand.

Send your entries to me at TimjgWarren@gmail.com by the deadline of 28 September 2020. Names of all those submitting correct-first-time solutions will be put in a Morris hat and the winner selected randomly. The prize, which is open to all Surrey members, will be free entry to a Surrey event at Oxshott of the winner's choice, once they resume.

We trust Surrey members will solve the problems themselves, rather than using computers.

Club News

As many of you will know the EBU have created what they call Virtual Clubs. The advantage of virtual clubs is that it enables a club to restrict who plays in its sessions and it greatly simplifies the collection of table money as that is done by the online service provider. This has been taken up by several Surrey clubs.

We warmly welcome the following three clubs to the SCBA/EBU-family: Church Hill BC, East Horsley Virtual BC and 3Counties BC. The first two are new EBU Virtual Clubs and 3Counties BC is a long-established teaching and playing club.

3Counties Bridge Club

3 Counties Bridge now have an environment where we can encourage people to take up the game of Bridge. Please click on **Taster Session** to attend a free Taster Session. Our sessions are suitable for all levels: from complete Beginners to anyone who would like to Learn and Improve. Please see our website for further information (click [here](#)).

3 Counties Bridge Club has much experience, and many initiatives, to help people learn/improve bridge. Please invite your friends, neighbours and relatives to a Taster Session.

We have:

- Teaching - in our TEACHING ROOMS
- Supervised play - in our PRACTICE ROOM
- Mentoring – in our COACHING CORNER
- Social Teams Matches suitable for Beginners (8+ Boards)
- Assisted Pairs - in our CLUB ROOM

We hope you enjoy this [video](#) which aims to highlight the many reasons why bridge is a mind-sport worth learning and playing.

Caterham Bridge Club

Online Teaching

As well as our regular activities. Tony will be running bite sized tuition sessions during the autumn. Please click [here](#) to see the various learning opportunities.

External events this Autumn

We are running:

3rd October National Handicap Championship Pairs

5th -8th October – British Autumn Sim Pairs

6th-12th November Children in Need Sim pairs

7th-11th December Surrey Charity Sim Pairs

If your Club is not running these events you are welcome to play with us. Click [here](#) to register with Caterham.

Richmond Bridge Club

Learning Bridge

We are delighted to share our latest Bridge course schedule:

RBC Course Schedule									
	Beginners Term 1	Beginners Term 2	Beginners Term 3	Beginners Term 4	Defence Refresher	Bidding Uncontested Refresher	Intermediate 1	Intermediate 2	Advanced
Tim Chanter				10 Sep 2020 (morning)					Jan 2021 8 lessons
Tim Chanter		17 Sep 2020 (afternoon)		14 Sep 2020 (evening)					
Margaret Page			In progress					In progress	
Marianne Tudor- Craig	23 Sep 2020 (morning)								
Julia Davies		In Progress	15 Sep 2020 (evening)	24 Nov 2020 (evening)	26 Nov 2020 (morning) 6 lessons				
Richard Banbury						28 Sep 2020 (evening) 8 lessons	25 Jan 2021 (evening) 8 lessons		

Online Junior Bridge lessons and play

The 90-minute lesson and play sessions take place every alternate Sunday and start from 14:30. Suitable for ages 10 upwards.

Supervised Play

The Richmond Bridge Club run Supervised Play sessions every Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings starting at 10:30 and, starting late September, on Wednesday evenings at 19:00. The sessions are supported by highly experienced and friendly bridge teachers who are always at hand to lend a helping hand. Supervised Play sessions take place in RealBridge which offers full audio and visual bridge play and the closest experience to playing with friends in a club.

Refresh and Practice

The Richmond Bridge Club offers a '**Refresh and Practice**' session every Tuesday morning at 10:30.

Each session is led by our excellent teachers and is aimed at **refreshing** your knowledge on a particular topic that you may find tricky or on which you may like to **refresh** your memory.

It is not a lesson or seminar. Before each session, you will receive notes on the particular topic for the week which you can read at your leisure before the actual session.

The '**Refresh and Practice**' session will start with five minutes of Q&A (Questions and Answers) on the topic of the week.

This will then be followed by the bidding and play of 12 specially selected, pre-prepared hands on the topic for you to practice.

For more details on Bridge courses, Junior Bridge, Supervised Play and Refresh and Practice sessions, please contact Julia Davies on 07725 761 068 or email at julia@richmondbridgeclub.com.

Intermediate Seminar-Play-Review sessions

The Richmond Bridge Club teachers invite you to join them for the following seminars, every other Tuesday afternoon at 14:00. The format will be a lesson of around 45 minutes, followed by 8 boards to be played illustrating the topic (about 1 and a half hours), wrapping up with a review of these hands (30 minutes).

- 22 Sept - Combining Chances (led by Tim Chanter)
- 6 October - Jacoby 2NT (led by Margaret Page)
- 20 October - Suit Combinations and Odds (led by Tim Chanter)
- 3 November - Two Suited Opening Bids - Lucas and Unusual 2NT (led by Tim Chanter)
- 17 November - Splinter Bids (led by Margaret Page)
- 1 December - Counting in Defence (led by Tim Chanter)
- 15 December - RKCB (led by Margaret Page)

Selsdon Bridge Club

We are now running an online session at 19:00 on Thursday nights with the help of Caterham Bridge Club. Please come and join us.

Charity Update

Stunning Success of 100-Hand Marathon Bridge Challenge

by Mike O'Donnell for the Farnham bridge community

The well-known Farnham bridge partnership of Helen Mitchell and Tony Philpott took up the challenge of playing 100 bridge hands on-line in a single day in aid of the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice.

On May 27th, Tony and Helen undertook and achieved their challenge. They started play on **BridgeClubLive** at 8am, their opponents for the first four boards were Douglas Wright and Manda Kimberly, both of 3 Counties Bridge. They completed play just before 10pm - quite a marathon! The last four boards were played against Chris Lewis, chairman of the Bourne Bridge Club, and me, representing Farnham Bridge Club; and were recorded using Zoom, enabling us to toast Helen and Tony on their outstanding success.

Tony and Helen's initial hope was to raise £1,000 for Hospice funds. **In the end, over £8,000 including gift aid, was raised.** The generosity of the Farnham bridge community, their friends and family, and BridgeClubLive players has been quite amazing! This far, far, exceeds any bridge charity event ever run in the Farnham area!

The funds raised for the much-loved Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice, in these special times of need, are truly vital. Currently almost all upcoming Hospice events have been cancelled and many bridge events, community events and personal challenges such as marathons have been postponed. **Well done Helen and Tony!**

Next Newsletter (and our Library)

Please [email](#) us news, views, interesting hands, and what is happening at your club. Similarly, please let us have any comments to any of this newsletter or any other bridge matter, please contact the Committee, through the website.

Previous editions of our Newsletter are available on our website – please click [here](#). These are available to all, not just members of SCBA.