



# Surrey County Bridge Association

Newsletter # 25 March 2017

## In this edition

- Strategic Plan
- County Pairs Event
- The 2017 calendar
- Surrey News: Archives; Library; Sim Pairs; Annual Master Points; Bank Holiday Swiss Pairs; etc
- Hall of Fame
- Club Teacher Training
- Learning Weekend
- Bridge Hand
- Two suited openings
- Club news
- Youth News

## Strategic Plan

We had a successful Chairman's Lunch last November at which we discussed our newly developed strategic plan. Thank you to those of you who attended or sent representatives of your club. The input we received was very helpful. We finalised that plan at our Committee Meeting in January and we will be using that plan to set specific targets for the 2017-18 year. The plan can be found on our website in the Library, and comments are always welcome.

One of our objectives in the Strategic Plan is to provide the wider bridge community with an insight into the work of the Committee. To that end we suggested that we have secondees from some clubs to attend our Committee meetings. There are only four meetings a year and the individual concerned would not be expected to do any work unless they wished to. We are looking for people who have an interest in the development of Bridge and who have no previous experience of the working of the Surrey Committee. So if you are interested please let us know.

## County Pairs Event

Surrey's premier Pairs competition is coming up soon (2<sup>nd</sup> April)

This event is green pointed for the final (top 14 pairs from the qualifier held on the same day)

The top 5 pairs (both with Surrey as their county of primary allegiance) are eligible to represent Surrey in the Corwen Trophy

[More info on Representative Events](#)

[Register for the County Pairs](#)

## The 2017 Calendar

### MAR 2017

Sun		12	EBU National Pairs Regional	Richmond
Sat	1100	18	Selsdon & Caterham BP Swiss Pairs	Caterham
Sun		19	EBU Portland Pairs	Richmond
Sun	1330	26	Bourne Blue Point Swiss Pairs	Bourne Club, Farnham

### APRIL 2017

Sun	1300	2	Surrey County Pairs & Plate	Oxshott Dir: Neil Morley
Wed	1930	5	Sidney Chishick BP Swiss Teams (1)	Farnham Maltings
Sun	1200	9	Wimbledon Blue Point Swiss Pairs	Wimbledon
Wed	1930	12	Sidney Chishick BP Swiss Teams (2)	Farnham Maltings
Sun	TBA	30	Princess Alice Swiss Teams	Esher

### MAY 2017

Mon	1300	1	YHBC & Camberley Blue Point Swiss Pairs	Yateley Dir: Gary Conrad
Sat		6	Garden Cities Regional Final	Richmond
Sun		7	Richmond Blue Point Swiss Pairs	Richmond
Sat	1400	13	Petersfield Blue Point Swiss Pairs	Petersfield
Sun	1300	14	Surrey Mary Edwards Cup	Wimbledon Dir: Miranda Churchill

### JUNE 2017

Sun	1300	4	Surrey Leagues Finals	Oxshott Dir: Neil Morley
Tue		20	Richmond Café Bridge	Richmond
Sun	1300	25	Surrey Wanborough Cup	Wimbledon Dir: Miranda Churchill

**For more information on events that Surrey County Bridge Association run** [Click Here](#) or click on a link in the Calendar on the website. To enter an event either online using the [Event Hub](#), download an entry form, or contact the competitions secretary, Shirley Pritchard [competitionsecretary.scba@bridgewebs.com](mailto:competitionsecretary.scba@bridgewebs.com)

## Surrey Archives

Surrey is proud of its rich history and is attempting to keep this alive through our archives and records. With the help of a few committee members and a super star Volunteer who responded to the request on the website (Jill Cook), we have made a start and these pages are within the main left hand menu titled "Archives".

We will continually add to these articles and will keep tracking down details of Surrey members and results and information.

To this end, we would also like your help:

Do you have any information on any missing data?

Do you have any new information?

Do you have any interesting stories or pictures you would like to share?

Do you have any suggestions for other categories?

There is a form on the header of the Archives section to submit any information to us, this will not be displayed under the form and will be checked and vetted prior to inclusion within the Archives.

Your help here is very much appreciated.

### [Surrey Archives Pages](#)

## Surrey Library

In addition to our work on developing our archive we have also brought together all the documents that we think our Surrey members might want to refer to and have put them all in one place, which we call our Library. Just go to our home page and click on Library on the left hand menu.

Comments on this would be most appreciated and especially suggestions for other documents we could include there.

## Sim Pairs

The February Surrey Sim Pairs event has now been finalised and points awarded. The Hall of Fame is up to date with the winners and the results page shows links to each day's events (as well as listing which clubs participated).

Well done to all the winners and thanks to all the clubs who entered. After deducting the prize money and a nominal payment to the EBU for using their Sim Pairs scoring system we raised nearly £3,000 for the Brigitte Trust a charity for people with life threatening illness, one of the many local charities we have supported over the years.

### [Brigitte Trust](#)

We are currently reviewing our use of Sim Pairs events and in January asked all club Chairmen for their comments, we have had some feedback so far but would welcome more so if you have any thoughts on these events then please let us know.

Some feedback we have already received is that there is a reluctance to enter these events because the hands are somehow 'fixed' to make them more difficult or more interesting. We have said it before and we make it clear in the instructions but let us emphasise here: **The hands we use for our Sim Pairs are computer generated random hands just as you would find on a normal club evening. It may not seem like this sometimes, but we would not be allowed to fix them, even if we wanted to.**

## Annual Master Points Lists

The Annual Master Points lists are now available on the EBU site. These are per County, Club and overall. We have also copy and pasted the Surrey clubs for you as a separate list and can be found by clicking the home page box just beneath the main left hand menu

### [Surrey Club Lists](#)

### [EBU Links including Annual Master Points Lists](#)

## Bank Holiday Swiss Pairs is back!

Surrey are pleased to announce that the popular August Bank Holiday Swiss Pairs event is back!!! This event is blue pointed and being held at Oxshott on **Monday** 28<sup>th</sup> August.

### [Register for Bank Holiday Swiss Pairs](#)

## Neighbouring Counties

Surrey are always pleased to advertise our Neighbours' events as well as School and Youth events, at the foot of the home page is a map linking to the Neighbour events page as well as links to upcoming events.



## Teams Events

Surrey is keen to promote Teams events and is also looking for feedback on why you do or don't like Teams.

We offer:

1. Surrey Leagues
2. Surrey Novice Leagues
3. Green Pointed Teams (Entry forms will be available soon, events in Sep17)
4. Home Counties Teams (typically below Grand Master)
5. Representative events
6. Knock Outs (Lady Rose Cup and Plate)
7. Wanborough Cup for club champions Teams
8. New event planned for the Winter, more information from Richard Millard to follow!

## ***Winter Teams – a New event!***

### **THE SURREY WINTER TEAMS COMPETITION**

**£1200 in prizes (subject to minimum entry numbers)**

#### **Blue pointed**

VENUE Richmond Bridge Club TW1 2PG

Dates Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2017 12 noon

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017 12 noon

#### **Format**

Saturday multiple teams qualification leading to

Sunday 2 semi-finals, each 28 boards, then final and third/4<sup>th</sup> place play offs, also 28 boards - Swiss Teams ( 7x 7 board matches) for non qualifiers.

Watch out for the flyer and entry form on the website soon!

## ***Contact Us***

Surrey is keen to receive feedback (positive and constructive). The Contact Us page has links to e-mail any Committee Member direct, we don't bite, send us a message! This is on the top right of the home page or:

**[Contact Us](#)**

## Hall of Fame so far

Competition	Winners
Affiliated Clubs Teams of 8	RICHMOND - BLUE: Margaret Page & Patrick Bohan, C Lambe & John Balson, Dan O'Farrell & Maureen Dennison, Ting To & Corneliu Rimboiu
Club Chairmen's Lunch	Marion Hart & David Sims
Club Pairs Challenge "A" Final	Peter Hardyment & Saji Ispahani
Club Pairs Challenge "B" Final	Ian Lewis & Derek Gunter
Dorin Salver Day 1 Monday	(70.12%) - Malcolm Oddy & Bob Guille
Dorin Salver Day 2 Tuesday	(70.44%) - David Burch & Liz Dunjay
Dorin Salver Day 3 Wednesday	(68.66%) - Simon Whiteside & Maxine Julius
Dorin Salver Day 4 Thursday	(74.82%) - Alan Webber & Mick Edwards (Dorin Salver)
Dorin Salver Day 5 Friday	(71.41%) - Derek & Alison Gardner
Ladies Pairs	Michelle Lunqvist & Sandra Cape
Mens Pairs	Richard Granville & Graham Sadie
Mixed Pairs	Marion Hart & Bob Guille
Seniors Pairs	Steve Lock & Graham E Osborne
Surrey Green Pointed Swiss Pairs	Christine Dyer & David Dawson and Stephen Brown & Stuart McPhee (Joint Winners)
Surrey Green Pointed Swiss Teams	Martin Garvey, Jeffrey Allerton, Frances Hinden & Graham Osborne
Surrey Sim Pairs Feb Day 1 Monday	(69.01%) - Dip Dasgupta & Don Butt
Surrey Sim Pairs Feb Day 2 Tuesday	(65.12%) - Keith Oatway & Imelda Moore
Surrey Sim Pairs Feb Day 3 Wednesday	(66.85%) - Elaine & Ron Ewins
Surrey Sim Pairs Feb Day 4 Thursday	(70.91%) - Penny Webster-Smith & Sandra Cape
Surrey Sim Pairs Feb Day 5 Friday	(62.79%) - David & Connie Lofts

## Club Teacher Training

Why not become a bridge teacher:

So you can encourage others to take up this fabulous game?

So you can help your club increase its membership?

There is a Club Teacher Training course in Surrey, on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> August at the Bourne Club, Farnham.

If your club books the course the club can obtain another 20% discount from the already heavily subsidised price of £108.

To book a place on this course, please contact **Lisa Miller** on 01296 317217

For more details please go to:

<http://www.ebedcio.org.uk/club-teacher-training#courses>

If you wish to discuss this course with a Professionally Qualified Bridge Teacher by all means contact [douglaswright@3countiesbridge.com](mailto:douglaswright@3countiesbridge.com)

## Learning Weekend

**Balmer Lawn Learning Weekend, New Forest - Defender Play**

**31 March and 1-2 April 2017**

Douglas Wright & Laura Porro invite you to a fabulous weekend of bridge at Balmer Lawn, a classic Country House Hotel set in the very heart of the New Forest National Park. Your bridge will improve as Douglas & Laura host a series of seminars aimed at social and duplicate players, together with several opportunities to play bridge.

For more details and to book contact [douglaswright@3countiesbridge.com](mailto:douglaswright@3countiesbridge.com) 07801 989630

Cost per person based on standard room double occupancy   £249  
Cost per person based on standard room single occupancy   £284



### Friday 31 March

**8.00pm** Duplicate Bridge (Chicago bridge optional)

### Saturday 1 April

**10am – 12am** Session one - Signals

Playing as a defender is all about inferring what partner and declarer (the 'hidden hands') have. Signals are an essential tool in this task. Signals can help you work out:

- the position of the missing high cards
- the length and break of important suits
- the suit that needs to be played next as a priority

**4pm – 6pm** Session two - Discards - Discarding might seem easy, but as you and your partner deepen your understanding of the defensive processes, discarding takes on a new crucial role. This session will focus on achieving the right balance between giving partner the information they need and making life difficult for declarer

**8.00pm** Duplicate Bridge (Chicago bridge optional)

### Sunday 2 April

**10am – 12am** Session three – Trump promotion - Sometimes it is not possible to defend a suit contract simply by winning tricks with your high cards - after all, as a defender you are more often than not dealt small cards! This is when you need to use your trumps creatively. Trump promotion is a technique where both defenders strongly cooperate to make the best use of their small trump.



# Bridge Hand

## Everyday bridge (by Gerard Thompson)

Slams and redoubled contracts are glamorous, but Teams bridge is generally decided by bidding and making as many games as possible. Here is an everyday hand from a recent Home Counties League match – the interest is in how diverse the outcomes were.

Game all, dealer South.

	♠ J92	
	♥ QJ97	
	♦ J1042	
	♣ J10	
♠ AQ753		♠ 1064
♥ 10		♥ AK6543
♦ 875		♦ K
♣ A732		♣ KQ6
	♠ K8	
	♥ 82	
	♦ AQ963	
	♣ 9854	

The hand was played four times. What happened after East-West started P-1H-1S was as follows:

1. At one table the bidding went P-1H-1S-2H-2NT-3S-P. This was looking good up to the final pass, but one player thought 3S was game-forcing and the other thought it wasn't<sup>1</sup>. Ten tricks
2. At one table opener rebid 3H and West now was always bidding game. Unfortunately the game selected was 4H, 1 off when trumps broke 4-2.
3. At one table after opener rebid 2H and West, looking at a misfitting 10 count, passed. Nine tricks.
4. At just one table the partnership bid to 4S making, which is the contract you want to be in.

Auction 1 – know which bids are forcing. If in doubt, treat as forcing (at least at Teams).

In auction 2, 3H seemed to cramp the auction. 3H stresses a heart suit which has no body, and ignores the spade fit and the singleton. But at least they were in game.

Auction 3 is the most interesting, because there are two potential extra bits of information given partner has opened 1H in 4<sup>th</sup> seat.

The Rule of 15<sup>2</sup> (points + number of spades, in this case) suggests that in addition to having 6 hearts partner has a minimum either 13 points and 2 spades, or 14 and 1 spade, or (less likely, as they have rebid 2H not 2S) 12 points and 3 spades. So they are not minimum with a misfitting hand. Perhaps we can bid again? But, depending on your methods, there may be an even stronger argument for bidding.

Do you play weak twos? How strong are they in 4<sup>th</sup> seat? By this point if nobody else has bid there is little to be gained by pre-empting on a weak hand, so most partnerships up the strength, typically to 9-13 points or so. So in the actual auction East is likely to be a stronger hand than this. Now West definitely wants to bid again, and game will be reached (best is probably 2NT-3S-4S).

<sup>1</sup> It should be forcing. If you think 3S is a better place to play than 2NT you should have bid 2S not 2H

<sup>2</sup> The Rule is based on not opening marginal hands in 4<sup>th</sup> seat where the opponents are likely to have the spade suit and outbid you

## Two-suited openings

### If Two-Suited Overcalls Work So Well, Then Why Not Also Two-Suited Openings?

By Gavin Wilson:

You may have noticed that the use of two-suited openings is on the increase, particularly in the Surrey area.

It is not hard to see why. Two-suited overcalls such as *Michaels*, the *Unusual 2NT* and *CRO* are highly effective in defence. It doesn't take too curious a mind to ask "Well, if these two-suited bids work so well as an overcall, why shouldn't they also succeed as an opening?"

But the problems for the curious mind quickly multiply. First, you need to find some documentation to show how such a thing as a two-suited opening might work. Second, you need to find either some spare opening bids which you aren't using or discard some of your less used bids to free up space in your armoury. And third, you need to find a partner prepared to play this newfangled gadget. In conservative Surrey, this is not easy. Fifteen years ago, much of the Surrey club scene continued to be dominated by *Strong Two* openings.

In the UK, you may find the odd reference to *Lucas Twos* or *Woo Twos*. Since there does not appear to have been a book written on them, it is hard to become a student of either. Ignored for a long time by the USA-based *Official Encyclopedia of Bridge*, *Lucas Twos* finally gained an entry with the 6th edition, perhaps only because the editors believed they are synonymous with the more modern *Muiderbergh Twos*. Pamphlets have been written in both Russian and Dutch on *Muiderbergh Twos*, and translations are available on the Bridgeguys website. It is played to an extent in Surrey, and it means giving up whatever you currently use your 2♥ and 2♠ openings for so that you can show a weak hand with precisely five cards in the major you have bid and 4+ cards in an unspecified minor.

Is it worth giving up your bog-standard *Weak Twos* in order to play *Muiderbergh Twos*? Probably not. That is why *Muiderbergh* players also employ the controversial 2♦ *Multi*, so that they can show their 6-card major in a weak hand via the 2♦ opening. That way they don't have to give up their weak twos in the majors.

But with both the 2♦ *Multi* and the use of the 2NT opening to show a weak hand with both minors, players hit upon a potentially insurmountable snag. It is an EBU Level 4 convention, so you cannot use it at a Level 2 club unless you get permission from the club to do so. Level 2 is described by the

EBU as aimed at novice events but there are long-established Level 2 clubs in Surrey. And there are bridge holiday companies which are very strict about enforcing their Level Twoness.

Even with Muiderbergh, the  $2\spadesuit$  *Multi* and *2NT for the Minors*, players still don't have all suit pairings covered. What happens if you have both majors? Again, neither the *Ekren 2\spadesuit* nor the *Flannery 2\spadesuit* openings are EBU Level Two.

My partner and I wanted a single, simple system which we could play wherever we went. We didn't want to be forced to choose between a system which shows six-card suits and one which shows two-suiters, even though we knew the two-suiters turn up more often. Fortunately we realised that you can have both in one system.

There are several solutions to this problem. We decided on a straightforward, natural scheme which we call *Antispades* because, although spades may well be opener's second suit, it is never the suit he opens when he has a weak hand. (By '*weak*', we mean a hand of 5-10 HCP and 6-8 losers.) Thus:

- A  $2\clubsuit$  opening shows either 6+ clubs, or clubs and diamonds, or clubs and spades.
- A  $2\heartsuit$  opening shows either 6+ hearts, or hearts and spades, or hearts and clubs.
- A  $2\diamondsuit$  opening shows either 6+ diamonds, or diamonds and hearts, or diamonds and spades.

This scheme means that responder can always bid the next suit up — for example,  $2\heartsuit$  in response to the  $2\clubsuit$  opening — as a weak pass-or-correct bid. The upward-looking nature of the system keeps the bidding low when both opener and responder are weak. When responder is strong, he typically uses 2NT to enquire further.

It is, though, a canapé system in that your second suit may be longer than your first, and your system card should warn opponents of that possibility. If, for example, you had a weak hand containing six spades and four clubs, you would still open  $2\clubsuit$ , and your partner would use the alert card. It is the particular two suits you have which determines the suit you open — not their relative length.

$2\spadesuit$ , by the way, is our strong, artificial opening, which shows either 23+ points balanced or a 16+ HCP hand with 4 losers or fewer.

# Illustrative Board

Here is a hand from the 3rd October 2016 session at Claygate Bridge club:

	NT		《5》
Dealer: East  Vulnerable: N•S	♠ 10 8 4 ♥ 8 5 3 2 ♦ J 10 9 6 ♣ 7 6	1  14      HCP      6  19	《4》 《5》 《6》 《2》
NT ♠ A 7 ♥ Q J 9 7 4 ♦ K 5 ♣ A 10 9 5	《8》 《9》 《7》 《7》 《11》	N  W      E  S	NT ♠ J 9 6 5 3 ♥ - ♦ Q 3 2 ♣ Q J 8 4 3
	NT		《6》
	♠ K Q 2 ♥ A K 10 6 ♦ A 8 7 4 ♣ K 2		《4》 《6》 《6》 《2》

*(The figures in double-brackets — for example 《2》 — show the number of tricks this player can make as declarer in this suit — or in No Trumps — if all four players play perfectly.)*

## If East passes ...

If N•S play **Benji**, the auction is likely to go:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		No	2NT
All pass			

This would go off two with best play by all, giving EW a score of +200.

If N•S play **Modern Acol without Benji**, the auction could go one of two ways:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		No	1♥

All pass

This gives E•W a score of +200 with best play by all, as the contract goes down two.

Perhaps E•W play some sort of Weak Michaels by a passed hand in the pass-out seat, in which case the auction might be revived thus:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		No	1♥
No	No	2♥ <sup>[1]</sup>	Dbl
2NT <sup>[2]</sup>	No	3♣	All pass

[1] Weak Michaels by a passed hand in the pass-out seat.

[2] Tell me your minor.

This would give E•W a score of +150 with best play by all, as they can make 11 tricks in clubs.

The net of all these possibilities when East passes is that whichever route is taken, even if E•W discover they have a club fit, they will have very little idea how high they can safely bid.

**But if E•W are using Antispades, East can open the bidding ...**

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		2♣ <sup>[1]</sup>	Dbl <sup>[2]</sup>
5♣ <sup>[3]</sup>	All pass		

[1] Two-suited — clubs and spades — 8-loser hand of 6 HCP.

[2] With 16+ points, any shape will suffice for the double.

[3] In an uncontested auction, we use conservatism and the *Losing Trick Count* to determine how high we raise partner when we have a fit: we assume his hand is minimum, which means 8 losers. So in an uncontested

auction, West should respond 4♣ here to show a 6-loser hand and a club fit. But once the opponents enter the auction, we become less conservative, and use both the *Losing Trick Count* on the assumption that partner has opened with 7 losers, and a *Total Trumps* calculation on the assumption that partner has 5 cards in the suit opened. And we take the higher of the bids suggested by these two calculations.

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E•W should score +400 for making the 5♣ contract.

In this illustration, E•W are unlikely to find their club fit — and even if they do, they are very unlikely to find the right level — unless East opens the auction. Antispades gives them the bidding technology to do so.

## Conclusions

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My partner and I have found so far that it is usually safe to open an Antispades Two with just four cards in the suit, so long as it contains a top honour. Even if you go down doubled, you will find on more than 80% of occasions that the opponents could score higher in game or even slam.

We have also discovered that, with a small modification to enable the 2♠ bid to become natural, Antispades Twos make a very sound defence to 1NT.

Antispades even enable you to open at the two-level when you have a 7+ card minor which you'd like to show and a 4+ card major — a combination of circumstances which something in the recesses of your memory might tell you not to bid the pre-empt.

## Club News

### *The Monday Club*

NEW VENUE FOR THE MONDAY CLUB - [The Battersea Labour Club, 81-83, Falcon Road, SW11 2PF](#) (5 minutes from the Grant Road end of Clapham Junction Station)

The Monday Club, Battersea, will be moving from the Northcote and will have its first session at the new venue on Monday 13th February. It means that in the 30 years of its history, it will be playing on a Monday for the first time. The reason the club have always played on a Tuesday is that the founders were members of an evening class which was held on a Monday. As the evening class was still attended by many members, they decided to play on a Tuesday instead and have done ever since. We have led a nomadic existence over the past few years, looking for a venue that meets our needs and think we have finally found one in the BLC. Bank holidays that fall on a Monday won't be a problem as the BLC is open every day of the year.

## Youth News

The 2017 Surrey Schools Cup took place on 3 Feb, with 54 pupils from seven schools taking part; we were particularly pleased to welcome two schools who've never entered before. St Paul's Boys School wrested the Cup back from KCS Wimbledon; Weydon won the first-ever Salver, for those who are relatively new to bridge; and an on-the-day pairing of pupils from Weydon and Godolphin & Latymer won the MiniBridge pairs. (Following on from last year's visit to the Houses of Parliament, when they played bridge with members of the Lords, this caps quite a time for Weydon.) There's full results and some great pics of the kids enjoying themselves at [www.bridgewebs.com/surrey/page79.html](http://www.bridgewebs.com/surrey/page79.html).



A bridge club started this term on Thursday afternoons at Greenfield School in Woking, with a remarkable 18 pupils coming along each week. We have several helpers, but with so many youngsters keen to learn, we could really do with more; their evident enthusiasm makes it noisy but very rewarding. In discussion with teachers at Harrodian School, we've rethought our approach there. We're now aiming to restart in September as a free-to-join club, an offshoot of the school's current 'Card Sharks' session, and aiming at slightly older pupils than before.

What makes the difference at schools' bridge clubs is the people who volunteer. Bridge ability is irrelevant, you just need to enjoy working with youngsters. Please contact me on [TimigWarren@gmail.com](mailto:TimigWarren@gmail.com) about helping out – even if you only do so occasionally, you can make a big difference! Whilst it's unlikely to enable you to retire earlier, we can pay something towards expenses. Wimbledon and Roehampton BCs are starting major programmes of promoting bridge for their local youngsters. Why not offer to help them, or talk to your local club about doing something similar?

Finally, a huge thank-you to all who worked so hard at the Schools Cup, including Richard Banbury at EBED, and to those who teach at our new and existing schools. Nothing happens without you. And a particular bouquet to Louisa at Wimbledon BC for all the support the club has given us.

## Next Newsletter

The next newsletter will be in June 2017. News, views and interesting hands, what is happening at your club – please send them to us (use the Contact Us).

[Contact Us](#)