

Surrey County Bridge Association

eNewsletter No. 1 – March 2011

In order to keep in touch with you, our members, we (the committee) have decided to try sending out a quarterly newsletter. There will be a brief summary of any news since the last newsletter, and a list of upcoming events. If you would like to have anything put into this then please let me know, my email address is webmanager@surreycountybridge.org.uk. It could be an interesting hand, something about your club, your pet likes and dislikes ...

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A message from our chairman

Dear fellow Surrey bridge player,

Having just read through Andrew Robson's excellent bridge supplement in one of the national Newspapers, I was struck by the one line that summed it all up for him: "playing bridge should be FUN". This quote reminded me of the famous captain of industry Freddy Heineken (yes, the brewer responsible for that special Dutch beer that reaches part of the body other beer can not get to) who had two words pinned on his wall in his office: FUN and NOW.

This double motto has stayed with me since I saw it for the first time and it guides me in whatever I am involved in, including chairing the Surrey County Bridge Association.

The present Committee has begun to look for all sorts of ways to create the best conditions for playing bridge in Surrey, including finding the right venue for all County competitions, although our flagship event, the September Green pointed weekend will continue to be held at Guildford's Spectrum complex.

I am sure that we will improve at a faster speed, if and when we receive suggestions and advice from anyone of the over 4000 members currently registered. Your comments will be highly appreciated and be listened to.

Hope to hear from you. Keep smiling and stay healthy.

Mac Derwig

News in brief

- Mayfield win Affiliated teams of 8 and go forward to the Garden Cities regional final
- November - SCBA president Shirley Pritchard and Graham Wells presented a cheque for £2,300 to Banstead rehabilitation centre. The money was raised during the Dorin Salver Surrey Simultaneous Pairs.

- November - Roland Bolton has stood down as SCBA CTD. The county had a lunch to thank him for all his hard work on behalf of SCBA. He is sorely missed!
- September - Bob Rowlands was given John Armstrong Award. There is more information about this on the EBU web site (www.ebu.co.uk).

News items can be found on the SCBA web site (www.surreycountybridge.org.uk) on the County Focus page. Also on this page is information about the events that SCBA sponsors people to, and how they did! If you are interested in representing Surrey in any event then please contact Peggy Griffin (peggyg@talktalk.net).

What's coming up

March 2011			
Sun	06	Swiss Teams	Bourne
April 2011			
Tues/Thurs	12-14	BGB Spring Sim. Pairs	Clubs
Thur	21	Golf-Bridge Cup (Ian Fraser 01483 561 556)	West Hill
May 2011			
Sun	01	Princess Alice Hospice Swiss Teams	Esher
Fri	06	Affiliated Clubs, Intermediate and Novice League Finals	Oxshott
Sun	08	Mary Edwards (Inter Club Pairs Champions)	Wimbledon
Wed/Thur	11-12	EBU Spring Sim. Pairs	Clubs
Sun	15	Wanborough Cup (Inter Club Teams Champions)	Wimbledon
July 2011			
Sun	17	Swiss Pairs & AGM	Bookham

If your club has not yet run a competition to select your champion pair (Mary Edwards) and team (Wanborough Cup), then there is still time to do so. More information on SCBA events – format, entry cost, who can enter, how to enter - can be found on the web site (www.surreycountybridge.org.uk) on the Events page.

A new venture

Monthly bridge and supper evenings in Wandsworth

Wed 30th March: Duplicate Bridge and Supper for £20 at The Bowler bistro/pub, 20 Bellevue Road, Wandsworth SW17 7EB, near Trinity Road.

The emphasis is on friendly bridge, starting 7.30 pm, ending 10.30 - 11, supper at around 9 pm. A partner can be provided.

To book a place, to get the menu or further details, contact Charmaine on charmaine@juliandowson.co.uk or 07789 998 564

Future sessions are once a month, next one is on Wed 20th April.

What's the point of hand records?

When you pick up the hand records after an evening's duplicate, do you ever look at the little table printed next to each hand? This tells you how many tricks each player can make in each denomination double dummy (i.e. knowing all four hands)*. Double dummy analysis often bears little relation to what happens at the table (why should you pick out one particular lead, or play to drop Qx offside?) but it is a very good exercise to work out how the play needs to go to achieve the double dummy result. Sadly it's only too common for me to play a hand and think "there's no way I could have made that" only to see that in fact an overtrick was available. This type of analysis gives you a great appreciation for some of the subtle ways tricks can be gained or lost.

Here's a nice example from the County Pairs (board 26). First, look at it as a declarer play problem:

♠ QJ5	♠ AKT876
♥ T984	♥ K3
♦ 6	♦ AT85
♣ AK943	♣ T

I played in 4S on a diamond lead (East had doubled a bid from North showing a singleton diamond). I made 12 tricks comfortably by ruffing three diamonds in dummy. I discovered at the end of the play that the ace of hearts was sitting over the king, so when my partner asked if we had missed slam I said confidently that there were only 11 tricks on a trump lead.

When we saw the hand records, I was dismayed to find out that 6S is cold double dummy. The normal line on a trump lead would be to lead towards the king of hearts for your twelfth trick (win the spade in hand, ace of diamonds, diamond ruff, AK of clubs discarding a diamond, club ruff, diamond ruff, heart towards hand). If you have some spare time, try 6S as a play problem with the additional information that West has the ace of hearts. I think the best single dummy line (just seeing two hands) is also the winning line with all four hands visible.

If you have slightly less time to spare, try and work out how to make 6S on a trump lead seeing all four hands:

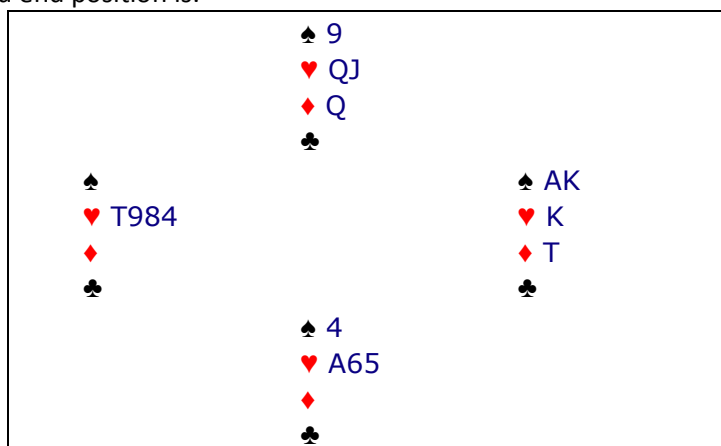
	♠ 92	
	♥ QJ72	
	♦ Q9743	
	♣ J2	
♠ QJ5		♠ AKT876
♥ T984		♥ K3
♦ 6		♦ AT85
♣ AK943		♣ T
	♠ 43	
	♥ A65	
	♦ KJ2	
	♣ Q8765	

On any hand, when you really cannot see how it's possible to make or prevent a certain number of tricks, you can always resort to the computer. There are various programs available; the original is Deep Finesse which is now available free from www.deepfinesse.com.

To save you time on this hand, here's the answer:

If you think of it as a play problem, then the two 'obvious' lines are to play for (after giving up on the heart position) are (i) the QJ of clubs coming down short, or (ii) the KQJ of diamonds tripleton. So you start by winning the trump in hand and cross-ruffing clubs and diamonds. After AK of clubs

(heart discard), club ruff, ace of diamonds, diamond ruff, club ruff, diamond ruff, club ruff you are in hand. The four-card end position is:



You draw the last trump, everyone following. You then cash your last spade from hand, and East is caught in an unusual position: he can't discard a diamond without setting up your 10, but on a heart discard you can exit with the king of hearts, dropping his other honour, and with only hearts left West has to give the last trick to dummy. This is called a Vice squeeze (East's heart honours are 'caught in a vice') and was originally described and named by Terence Reese. It's quite rare, because it needs a very specific layout: not only the QJ of hearts and the master diamond together in one hand, but the other than must be down to nothing but hearts when it is forced to win the ace.

After a brief moment to appreciate the position, you might say "so what?" because you wouldn't have taken this line at the table. But next year, when you get to 6S with these two hands, you'll know how to play it.

*Actually it doesn't always: the software that generates this table is sometimes set not to analyse contracts where the declaring side has fewer than seven trumps, or fewer than a certain number of high cards – this speeds up the generation of the hand records on a slow computer.

Frances Hinden