



Surrey County Bridge Association

Newsletter # 54, Autumn 2024

Introduction

Tim Warren

Welcome to our Autumn newsletter.



Bridge - It's a Big Deal (the EBU's Festival of Bridge) took place this month, and it's great to see that the national target of raising £60,000 for

Cancer Research UK was met. As well as charity fundraising, this was an opportunity to attract more people to bridge and bridge clubs, and in our Club News you can read about how Tudor & Guildford BC set out to do that. T&G put on a session aimed at introducing people to the fun of playing in a club duplicate, and had an excellent turnout of 56 students.

We've also just held our annual flagship event, the Green Point Weekend. For the first time since 2016, the combined Teams and Pairs numbers rose year-on-year – not by much, but a move in a good direction.



We're looking for an Accounts Examiner, to review our annual accounts.

Might you be able to help us?

If so, see page 4.

One of Surrey's and the country's top bridge players, Jeffrey Allerton, died recently after a long and debilitating illness. In the Daily Telegraph, Tom Townsend wrote a tribute to Jeffrey which we have included here, with permission.

Jeffrey was also a long-standing member of the Surrey committee. In this, he was a gentle but hugely influential force who contributed what always proved to be wise, down-to-earth counsel. He is much missed.

Introduction	1
Jeffrey Allerton Obituary	2
Calendar	3
Directors Training	3
Dummy's Limits, Rights & Obligations	3
Double Dummy #23	4
SCBA Accounts Examiner Wanted	4
Notes from Eastbourne	5
Voice from the Deep	6
Conundrum Corner	6
Golf-Bridge at Hindhead	8
Our 2024 AGM	9
DD Puzzle #22 - Solution	10
Congratulations	11
More from Eastbourne	13
Club News	15
Charity Events	16
Teaching	17
And finally...	17

Bridge Hand

The quiet man departs

By Tom Townsend

Dealer West
Vulnerability North-South

♠ 5 4 ♥ J 10 9 8 7 6 ♦ 9 4 ♣ A Q 8	♠ K Q J 8 6 3 ♥ none ♦ Q 8 7 ♣ 9 7 6 2	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ 10 9 7 2 ♥ 4 ♦ A J 10 6 5 2 ♣ K 10
N						
W E						
S						
	♠ A ♥ A K Q 5 3 2 ♦ K 3 ♣ J 5 4 3					

West	North	East	South
2♥(1)	2♠	pass	3NT
pass	pass	pass	

Contract 3NT by South
Opening Lead ♥J

(1) Weak two-bid

JEFFREY Allerton died last Sunday, aged 54. He had been unwell for some time. The last time he played bridge was at the 2022 Spring Fours. His team won that event, pounding Orca (2023 and 2024 winners) in the final.

Thirty years ago, Allerton was my junior international partner. Captained by Raymond Brock, our Great Britain team won the 1994 European and 1995 World Championships.

Partnering Chris Jagger, Peter Lee, and his wife Frances Hinden in future years, Jeffrey's wins included two Gold Cups, two Spring Fours, four Hubert Phillips Bowls, one Premier League, one National Pairs, two Brighton teams and a Brighton pairs. He played in six Camrose weekends, and won two European Mixed bronze medals.

In 2018, Jeff and Chris entered the EBU Open Pair Trials. Private bets are sometimes laid on such events. Underrated as always, the two accountants were initially offered at a ludicrous 33/1. This was taken on my advice, as was the remaining 20/1.

They were the only pair in the field playing weak no-trump. Allerton didn't like this method at all, but played it to suit Jagger. It made them a high-volatility pair at the top level, something which swung both ways.

They won these trials, and qualified for the 2019 Bermuda Bowl in Wuhan. Overnight in their quarter-final match, England led USA (Nickell) by 63 IMPs. With greater confidence and team harmony, this would have seen them through. As it went, Nickell came back and won by 27.

Jeffrey stammered and was a man of few words. His views, when he gave them, were forthrightly expressed and realistic. Unfailingly modest and kind, you couldn't ask for a better teammate or partner. Away from bridge and work, he enjoyed classical music, skiing, and watching Lancashire play cricket.

Allerton was West here, partnering Hinden in the 2003 Gold Cup final. Gunnar Hallberg won the ♥J lead, unblocked ♠A, and gave up a club. Frances took the ♣10 and switched to the ♦J. Gunnar rose with the ♦K, and banked a top heart. Jeffrey soared with the ♣A (Crocodile Coup) on the next club, swallowing the ♣K, cashed the ♣Q and returned his diamond. This meant four down instead of making. Condolences to Frances and the Allerton family.

Final Result 3NT minus four,
N/S -400
Par Result same

This has been reprinted, with permission, from the Daily Telegraph of 6 September 2024.

There is also a full obituary which you may be able to access without subscribing at:

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/obituaries/2024/09/17/jeffrey-allerton-bridge-world-champion-gold-cup-camrose/>

His wife, Frances, has asked us to say that everyone who knew Jeffrey and would like to remember him is invited to A Celebration of Life on 8 November, full details and link to RSVP here:

[Jeffrey Allerton – White Rose Funeral Notices.](#)

Calendar

Nov 10 th	Mixed Pairs	Wimbledon
Dec 2 nd – 6 th	Dorin Salver	Clubs
Jan 5 th	Teams of Eight	Wimbledon

Director's Training in Richmond

Richard Banbury

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>

Dummy's Limits, Rights and Obligations

Richard Banbury

This was a topic covered today as part of last week's club directors' training course (there are two such courses running in Surrey at the moment – at Bookham and Richmond – there's still time to sign up via <https://www.ebedcio.org.uk/td-training>)

Are you sure you know what you should or shouldn't do as Dummy?

Generally Dummy plays the cards solely as declarers' agent. Dummy cannot otherwise participate in the play of the hand at all. Some key points –

- Dummy cannot draw attention to an infraction during play (only at the end) or call the TD to the table (unless another player has already raised an issue). At the end of the auction Dummy cannot ask for a review of the auction or ask questions about an opponent's call.
 - EG a common problem arises when Dummy warns Declarer about leading from the wrong hand after the fact (at which point it is too late – the opponents have the usual rights to accept such a lead regardless).
- Dummy can only try to prevent an infraction – typically
 - When declarer shows out – dummy can ask Declarer “having none?” to prevent a possible revoke (Dummy cannot ask defenders the same question)
 - When Declarer seems about to play a card from the wrong hand – dummy can indicate where the lead should really be
- At the end of the auction but before the initial lead Dummy must tell the opponents about any incorrect explanations or faulty alerts by declarer – this may lead to the TD allowing the defence to change their final pass in the auction or to change their lead if it is already face down on the table.
- There is no automatic adjustment for a revoke by Dummy (eg because of a missing card) but the TD may still adjust the number of tricks made to restore equity.
- A card is played from Dummy when Declarer names or touches that card – issues can arise when declarer makes an incomplete designation of which card is to be played (eg by just saying “play a club”). Dummy cannot request a clarification of Declarer's intended card – Law 46 clearly sets out how declarer's words are to be interpreted (EG “play a club” always means “play the smallest club”) or “ruff” means “ruff with the smallest trump” (even when that would mean under-ruffing!)

For this month’s puzzle I am again indebted to Alan Brown who does much to help my reservoir of puzzles to entertain you.

Some hands become more interesting when the defence offers you the chance of making an extra trick. Here, the maximum that South can make against best defence is 5D but the seemingly neutral lead of 4C offers South just this chance, leading to the consequent puzzle below of how South can then bring home his 6D contract. Rated tricky.

The Deadline Date is October 20th. 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.

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

SCBA Accounts Examiner Wanted



Could you be our honorary Accounts Examiner? We need someone to review our accounts, starting with the year ending 31st March 2025, in good time for them to be presented to the AGM the following July. The final accounts are not filed with any statutory bodies, but are used by the Committee for management information and forward planning. Receipts and payments records are maintained on an Excel spreadsheet cashbook.

It would help to understand the basics, but ability at Bridge doesn’t matter, and given our level of turnover you don’t need to be a qualified accountant, all you need is to be familiar with traditional accounting for receipts and payments.

If you might be able to help us with this, contact our treasurer, [Jackie Hawkins](#).

I had a lovely time at Eastbourne this year. For those that don't know – this is the EBU's summer festival. My partner (Steve) and I go down for the Swiss Pairs which lasts 2 days. Also for those that don't know, Swiss Pairs is a format where you play a set number of hands against one pair, this is called a match. After each match you then play another pair who has achieved the same total score as you. At Eastbourne each match is 8 boards and there are 3 matches in each session. So we play 24 boards in the 'morning'. Break for lunch, and then play another 24 boards in the afternoon – and then do it all again the next day. Truly LOTS of bridge.

Steve and I were a bit up and down. On one 'up', we played David and David who were the eventual winners, and David Norman has written up one of those hands. We definitely helped them on their way to the top.

The image shows a hand analysis interface with the following details:

- North (NV):** ♠ 10, ♥ A 9 8, ♦ A Q 7 5, ♣ A J 10 3 2
- South (NV):** ♠ 8 6 2, ♥ 10 5 4, ♦ J 8 6 4 2, ♣ 9 7
- West (V):** ♠ Q J 9 4, ♥ 3 2, ♦ 10 3, ♣ Q 8 6 5 4
- East (D V):** ♠ A K 7 5 3, ♥ K Q J 7 6, ♦ K 9, ♣ K
- HCPs:** 15 (North), 5 (South), 19 (West), 1 (East)
- Bidding Table:**

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
North	-	2	-	-	-
South	-	2	-	-	-
East	1	-	4	4	1
West	1	-	4	4	1

On another 'up' we played Iain Sime and his partner Fiona McQuaker (both Scottish internationals).

Our bidding was:

N	E	S	W
	1H	P	1S
2N *	4S	5D	

90% of the field was allowed to play 4S, but the 2N by Iain (N) had shown both minors, and Fiona correctly judged that non-V vs V they would not go more than 3 off. A very good judgement call by her.

If you think you would like to try Swiss Pairs some time, then both Wimbledon and Richmond regularly run events – only 6 six board matches with a break in the middle for tea – nothing like the marathon at Eastbourne! Or, many charity events now-a-days follow a similar pattern. You could try one near you some time?

Well, the EBU has finally seen sense, faced the facts and bowed to the inevitable by toppling me from my elevated NGS 4 status and returning me to where I belong amongst the 3s, always assuming that that is neither arrogant nor presumptive of me as seen from the perspective of all the NGS 2s, who would perhaps, with some justification, claim me as "one of their own".

So in Surrey I'm now down to number 1984 (an ominous number!) but still with 216 players below me. However, that's just the "mature grades".

If I include all the "evolving grades" then I'm at number 2612 but with the comforting thought that there now are 464 players worse off than me.

No complaints about any of that -

BUT

How come none of those 464 ever show up to any venue where I play? Common decency and a basic sense of "fair play" ought to send them along in droves to give me a chance of beating somebody.

DIRECTORS' CORNER

The other evening my LHO queried the meaning of my bid with my partner, who had no idea what it meant and said so. LHO wondered whether at any later stage in the proceedings, perhaps when the auction was over, she'd have the right to ask me the meaning. I didn't know and frankly neither of us really cared very much. But our curiosities had been stimulated and so we called the director. He ruled (I think incorrectly?) that there was no such right on LHO's part nor any obligation on mine. So we continued to play and as usual my contract went down.

After the hand was completed I asked LHO if she was still keen to know the meaning of my bid. "Yes" she said. So I told her :- "It was an error !" Much merriment all round, which is surely why we all go to bridge clubs.

Finesses: A Question of Timing?

One of the enjoyable things that playing online has made possible is to replay hands from a previous top-level competition, and see how your drastic mistakes compare with how it was played at the time. On this hand, taken from a Gold Cup semi-final, my partner and I arrived in 4♥ (hands rotated):

Partner	Contract	Me
♠ A Q	4♥ by West	♠ J 10 7 6
♥ A K J 8 2	North leads ♥3	♥ Q 10
♦ J 7 5 3 2		♦ Q 10
♣ 4		♣ A Q 10 3 2

Our first drastic mistake was in the bidding, over which I'll draw a veil: 3NT by East is unbeatable, and easily reachable, but we ended up in 4♥.

As West, how would you play it, on a trump lead? It's going to be a real challenge if trumps or diamonds break very badly, so assume each is no worse than 4-2. Mooching idly at home as dummy, I reckoned the plan of the play was going to depend hugely on whether the spade finesse worked.

So, a key question is: *When should we take that spade finesse?*

My intuitive feel was that it should be immediately at trick 2. But I'm going to draw another veil over my logic for that, because I would have managed to go down when, with the cards as they lay, virtually any other line would have worked.

Here's the full layout:

	♠ K 2 ♥ 7 5 3 ♦ 9 6 4 ♣ K J 8 7 6	
♠ A Q ♥ A K J 8 2 ♦ J 7 5 3 2 ♣ 4	Contract 4♥ by South North leads ♥3	♠ J 10 7 6 ♥ Q 10 ♦ Q 10 ♣ A Q 10 3 2
	♠ 9 8 5 4 3 ♥ 9 6 4 ♦ A K 8 ♣ 9 5	

Luckily, partner didn't do it my way. He won the lead in dummy, cashed a second round of trumps, and only then took the spade finesse. It lost, and there was the inevitable club switch, but everything lay well so partner scrambled home, despite being cut off from the spade winners. (Yes, I know he could have finessed the ♣Q and discarded his ♠A on dummy's ♣A, but that would have risked immediate defeat and still not been enough even if it had worked.)

Only afterwards did it occur to me there's a third option in spades, and I think it's a much better one. That's to spurn the finesse altogether – just draw trumps and trundle out ♠AQ:

1. If the opponents duck ♠Q, you revert to diamonds, and rely on not being forced too much in clubs.
2. If they take that second spade (and in practice they have no option), you then have nine top tricks – five hearts, three spades and ♣A – plus good chances of a tenth.

Indeed, if the spade finesse has been right all along, the contract is cold – you get two discards on the spades, and the opponents can't attack clubs.

So, an unusual end point: *if the spade finesse is right, don't take it!*

Bridge & Golf Open

Wednesday 16 October 2024

18 holes Ladies/Mens/Mixed Pairs Betterball Stableford from the Yellow & Red Tees

DUPLICATE PAIRS BRIDGE IN THE AFTERNOON

STRICT HANDICAP LIMIT FOR GOLF MEN 28, LADIES 36

The closing date for entry is Monday 30th September 2024



Entry Fee: £165.00 per Pair

Hindhead Golf Club is pleased to invite applications for entry to their Open Golf and Bridge Competition. The entry fee of £165.00 per pair includes coffee & bacon rolls, green fee, a two-course lunch, tournament Director and prizes.

The morning golf will be played from the Yellow/Red tees with 85% handicap allowance for both men and ladies. The ladies will score from their own card.

Pairs will be ranked both for Golf and Bridge (similar to the Surrey County Golf-Bridge Cup). Overall winners will be the pair with the highest aggregate percentage. Refunds will only be given prior to the closing date.

HINDHEAD is a hilly course hence only single seater buggies can be used. Unfortunately, we do not currently have any buggies available so you would need to bring your own with you. Please contact the Admin Office for details.

Please complete the following entry form and send it into the Club Office. Payment can be made by cheque or BACS to Hindhead Golf Club Ltd, Sort: 60-09-40, A/C 79664180 Ref: BRIDGE/SURNAME

First Player Details:	Handicap:
Email Address:	Phone No:
Home Golf Club:	CDH No:

Second Player Details:	Handicap:
Home Golf Club:	CDH No:
Any dietary requirements:	
Signed:	Dated

Enquiries to Peter Bailey: peter@pjbio.com Tel: 01428 643993

Although the closing date for entries is 30th September, Peter is happy to receive late enquiries.

Double Dummy #22 - Solution

[John Manches](#)

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

South to make 6♥

Lead ♠3

Responses to DD No 22 produced two interesting lines of approach. Both involved correcting the count, which some solvers did immediately at T1 by ducking East's QS, while others delayed even until T11, but the theme was the same in all cases : 3 heart finesses, 2 diamond ruffs, eventually using ♥A as the crunch card to draw West's last trump and squeeze East in the black suits at the same time.

Well done to Alan Brown, John Dagnall, Richard Fedrick, Simon Foale, Bill Hodgkiss, Gerard Thompson and Robert Warriner, all of whom submitted successful entries, and congratulations to Bill Hodgkiss who was the winning entry out of the hat and who wins free entry to one of our competitions for himself and his partner of choice.

T1 ; Win with AS

T2 : run JH (West ducks)

T3 : Heart finesse to dummy

T4 : diamond ruff

T5 : Heart finesse to dummy

T6 : diamond ruff (Souths last rump)

T7 : to dummy with KC, leading to the position shown below

T8 : AH drawing West's trump and squeezing East in Clubs and Spades (see below)

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

If East discards 7S, South discards 6C: then Club finesse, KS, 2S loses to East who must return a Club to South's 2 winners

If East discards 9C, South discards 2S: then Club finesse to 3 winning Clubs and KS.

Our 2024 AGM

Tim Warren

As a bridge association, we are of course required to hold an AGM. As a result of falling attendances, we held this year's as an 'AGM via email' rather than the face-to-face meeting assumed by our Constitution.

We included a resolution to authorise retrospectively the holding of AGMs via electronic means. Constitutional change is an important thing, so we set a minimum number of votes of 100 members for the decision to be valid, of which at least 75% should be in favour. I'm pleased to say we met both thresholds, with the motion passed 151-4.

Thank you to all who voted. This was a representative comment of those who voted against:

"Video conferencing makes sense but email doesn't - no opportunity for members or club chairmen to raise topics and allow discussion"

I became Chair in July 2020, and all AGMs from 2020-23 were via video-conferencing. Though not one had been quorate - the constitution specifies at least 30 members - at the earlier AGMs we had some remarkably good debates. But in 2023 we had only three attendees from outside the committee, and inevitably discussion was limited.

Video-conferencing wasn't working, so something had to change. I'd like to assure you that we in the SCBA team considered the matter at length before deciding what that change should be. I was conscious that we would be making it more difficult for members to interact with us, to hold us to account, or just to voice an opinion and hear those of others. I believe strongly in encouraging and facilitating that interaction, and to suggest something that would reduce it did not come easily.

It reinforces the need to have alternative ways of interacting. Firstly, we welcome all contributions to our newsletter. And the Bridge Club Chairs' Consultation that Trevor Hobson introduced a decade ago, and we brought back post-Covid in 2023, has I believe been a big success, and we've arranged to hold another early next year.

Congratulations

Surrey

County Pairs Cup Roger Pratt & Henryk Klocek

County Pairs Plate Andrew Bannock & John Dagnall

Mary Edwards **Roehampton**

Peter Hardyment & Malcolm Bricknell

Wanborough Cup **Mayfield**
Andrew Southwell & Peter Lee, Arun Suri & Paul Chapman

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



Swiss Pairs Eduard Malhasyan & Mobin Rahman



Swiss Teams Graham Pollock & Andrew Whittome
Martin Lerner & Nathan Piper

In the wider world:

Eastbourne EBU Summer Festival Swiss Pairs - Harold Poster Trophy



Dave Norman and David Dawson

More from Eastbourne

Two Surrey pairs discuss one of the hands: Session 3 hand 13:

North D V					
♠ ♥ K 6 4 ♦ K 10 8 6 3 ♣ K Q 6 5 4					
West V	East V				
♠ A 7 5 4 ♥ Q 5 3 ♦ 5 ♣ A 9 8 7 3	♠ K Q 10 6 2 ♥ A J 8 7 2 ♦ 7 2 ♣ J				
South V					
♠ J 9 8 3 ♥ 10 9 ♦ A Q J 9 4 ♣ 10 2					
HCPs <table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">11</td></tr> <tr><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">10</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">11</td></tr> <tr><td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">8</td></tr> </table>		11	10	11	8
11					
10	11				
8					
	♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT				
North	- 4 - - -				
South	- 3 - - -				
East	1 - 4 5 2				
West	1 - 5 5 2				

In the eighth match, David and Dave (E/W) played against Julia Brough and Steve Bourton (N/S). David and Dave (with this superb play) went on to win the event overall.

West	North	East	South	
	1D	2D	3D	[2D = both majors, opening strength]
4D	-	4S	-	[4D = either a Cue bid, or asks to pick the major]
4N	-	5S	passed out	

Dave intended 4D to bring both Majors into the reckoning (4N would then be 6Ace Blackwood) in case David held KQ S and AK H - 5C would show 0 or 3 of 6, KH being the 6th. There is scope for ambiguity in the sequence, however – and fortunately David only held 2 keycards + Q S.

Julia (South) led Ace of Diamonds to 5, 3 and 2 and switched to 10 Clubs to Ace, 6 and J.

Taking Julia to be the honest soul that she (usually) is, David decided 10C was very likely to be doubleton and, therefore, Steve was 5-5 in the minors. It was important to establish Steve's Heart length to determine the play in that suit; a Heart finesse at this stage would have been disastrous had he held a singleton or void or, if he held King of Hearts, running the Queen would have been wrong if he held Kx or K. So David played a Spade to the King on which Steve showed out, suggesting 0355 - as with 0265 he would likely have bid beyond 3D.

A Diamond ruff, Queen of Hearts covered by King, Ace and Julia playing the 10 left:

♠ A7	♠ Q1062
♥ 53	♥ J872
♦ -	♦ -
♣ 9873	♣ -

The odds in Hearts alone now favour finessing the H8 on the 2nd round – but that needs to be performed twice to pick up 964, and there was only one entry to dummy. David was also confident that he'd read the distribution correctly, and that Julia would not have false-carded 10 Hearts from 106 or 104; so he played Queen of Spades, Ace of Spades and a Heart to the Jack, dropping Julia's 9 to make the contract – worth 87% of the matchpoints.

Our second pair is Gerard Thompson and Andrew Mann playing N/S.

West	North	East	South
	1D	2D	3D [2D = both majors, opening strength]
4S	5D	P	P
5S	passed out		

My 1D opening promised 4 but could have been 4 in a weak NT. 2D was Michaels and 3D was competitive.

The defence started with 6D to the Ace and then C10 from South.

Declarer won, led the HQ (covered by King and Ace, with the 10 falling from South) and cashed a top trump on table, wincing on seeing the 4-0 break the wrong way. I believe he now played cashed another spade and played a 3rd round of spades to the Ace.

At this stage he has lost one trick, with a sure trump loser later, and has to bring in the heart suit for no loss, with 53 opposite J872 and missing 9xx.

West led a heart and North followed with a small card. The two remaining defensive hearts are either 9x void or x 9 (they shouldn't be 9 x because South playing the 10 from 10x on the first round is not going to help the defence.)

If North has the 9x you need to finesse against it twice, but you have a diamond ruff as an entry. (You are not worried if South ruffs on the first or second finesse, because that is their last trump and their last trick.) Otherwise, you need to play the J to drop the 9.

The bidding and early defence mildly suggests diamonds 55 (North bid to the 5 level and South did not try to cash a second round).

The Principle of Restricted Choice suggests that 4252 with exactly 10-9 hearts is less likely. Against this, maybe with 4153 South would have bid 4D not 3, and leading C10 at trick 2 would be very odd/superbly deceptive from 10xx (depending on the standard of your partner).

Fortunately for us West guessed wrong and took the finesse, going 1 down.

Across the field, of those playing in spades about half made 10 tricks and half 11. Not everyone will have reached this situation though - a few will have played North for K or Kx in hearts to start with. So, I suspect that more than half the declarers got this particular "guess" right at table.

Club News

Tudor & Guildford

As part of the English Bridge Union's Festival of Bridge week (raising funds for Cancer Research UK & promoting awareness of bridge) Tudor & Guildford Bridge Club ran a relaxed supervised play session for 56 students (1st and 2nd year) introducing them to the fun of playing in a club duplicate session. Plenty of helpers were on hand to give assistance on bidding and play.

The event was opened by long-standing club member, John Ward, Mayor of Waverley.



We had a much-needed half time tea break with coffee and tea plus homemade cakes for the players (and helpers!).



The event raised £500 for Cancer Research UK with the club covering all hall costs.

Players and helpers left tired but full of enthusiasm for similar events!

The club also ran a raffle with lots of prizes donated by local businesses. This raised a further £750, making a grand total of £1250!

Charity Events

Andrew Robson Master Class – November 19th

The Charity BRIGHT Cancer Care are delighted to announce our first Andrew Robson Master Class. Andrew Robson, OBE, is a bridge celebrity, England international and Times correspondent. He is well-known as an effective teacher, and we are fortunate that he's bringing his Master Class format to our locale.

The event will help raise funds for BRIGHT Cancer Care a small charity based at The Royal Surrey who help support groundbreaking research to improve treatment options and outcomes for all GI and HPB cancer patients.

Booking for table at £160 or pairs at £80, will need names and email addresses for all. Please contact zoe@bright-research.co.uk

There will be a choice of lasagna or a selection of sandwiches with fruit kebabs as dessert. Tea and coffee will be available throughout the event.

Time: 10:30-3:30pm

Address of Venue
Holy Trinity Church Guildford
5 Trinity Churchyard High Street Guildford GU1 3RR

Church Website: <https://www.htsmguildford.org>

Charity Website: <http://www.brightcancercare.com>

Teaching

Short Online Course and Practice on 5 very useful Conventions! Wed 9:30-11:30



Objectives: Add (and practise) 5 very useful conventions to our Bridge 'kit bag' in order to compete, to get to the right contract at the right level or stay out of trouble!

- ❖ **16 Oct – 4th Suit Forcing, including finding 5-3 Major fit**
- ❖ **23 Oct – Negative Double**
- ❖ **30 Oct – 2-Suited Overcalls**
- ❖ **6 Nov – Defence to 1NT - Landy / Multi-Landy**
- ❖ **13 Nov – Escape from 1NTX**



For more info and to register: <https://www.bridgewebs.com/fun2play/>
or call Meena Samani on 07740 053683

And finally.....

The next newsletter will come out towards the end of December. 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