

# SOMERSET CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

## February 2019 Newsletter



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**March 8<sup>th</sup>** Pairs League 1 at 7pm at Woolavington

**March 9<sup>th</sup>** Teams of Eight at 1pm at Woolavington

**March 22<sup>nd</sup>** Pairs League 2 at 7pm at Woolavington

**March 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> Bruton Weekend**



Bruton19.pdf

[click here for full details, also on SCBA website](#)

## Recent Results



**Overall Winners of the Interclub  
Teams for non- affiliated clubs**

**Chew Valley team**

The Michael Coda Cup attracted 216 entries. The overall winners were Joe Melmoth and Eve Dent with a great score of 64.98% Our congratulations to them.

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**BB@B**

Somerset Contract Bridge Association fully supports good behaviour at the bridge table. This applies to how you treat your partner and the opposition.



*This is our new director. He has some fresh ideas on motivating players!*

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**Nominations wanted:**

The Terry Girdlestone Trophy is awarded to any Somerset member who has contributed above and beyond to bridge in Somerset. This could be in an administrative capacity such as setting up programmes and teaching bridge to encourage others to play the game and for being a role model of exemplary behaviour at bridge.' Please send nominations with as much detail as possible to: Sheila Coda. Email: [s.coda850@btinternet.com](mailto:s.coda850@btinternet.com) Post to: Stags Head Bungalow, 4 Highbridge, Williton, TA4 4RN, by April 30th 2018. The award will be presented at the AGM

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## **A Report from our new County Development Officer**

**As the County Development Officer I have been appointed to:  
Reverse the trend of dwindling Bridge Club membership in Somerset.  
Persuade “at risk” clubs to join with the SCBA in this Development  
Programme.**

**Support those clubs joining the programme.**

**Increase Club Membership in “at risk” clubs**

**Increase SCBA Membership**

**Promote the benefits of Bridge**

**Increase the regularity with which Primary Club Members play.**

**Raise the profile of bridge in Somerset.**

**So having been successful in my application for the role it was time to get  
stuck in. Initial contact was made with my opposite number Tim Anderson in  
the EBU and we shared both ideas and data and arranged a face to face  
meeting to coincide with the inaugural meeting for the CDO programme at  
Woolavington.**

**An invitation was sent to all the Somerset affiliated clubs to attend the  
meeting and there was a good turn out with representatives from Wilton,  
Cheddar, City Of Wells, Minehead, Yeovil and Winscombe. Feedback from  
the meeting suggests that it was useful for all parties. It certainly provided a  
plethora of information and some excellent ideas.**

**Moving forward I will be working to create individual action plans for those  
clubs who would like me to and getting in touch with those clubs who could  
not attend the initial meeting.**

**If you would like my help or have any great ideas please get in touch at either  
[scbacdo@mail.com](mailto:scbacdo@mail.com) or 07368 584475.**

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## **Club of the Month – Nailsea**

A group of local rubber bridge players met on 23 November 1972 and Nailsea BC was established. Legend has it that the number of Committee members was originally set at eight so that bridge could be played after meetings. Two of the founder members were Marion Blackhall and Barbara Parker who still play regularly at the club.

In the '80's we had two teams of juniors from Nailsea Comprehensive and Bristol Grammar Schools who attended regularly, practising for the Daily Mail Schools Cup, in which they both did well.

When Avon CBA was formed, our members overwhelmingly voted to remain with Somerset, a decision never regretted. Over the years members have regularly entered County competitions and supported Somerset Bridge through stints on the County committee (with at least three having been Chair) and organisation of County events, including the West of England Congress.

The club has always met at Mizzymeade Recreation Centre in Nailsea. When our membership exceeded 60 in the earlier 90's we filled the main hall but in more recent years we have managed with a much smaller room – although numbers have improved recently thanks largely to lessons provided by Daphne Patrick in this area.

It's great to think that November 2022 will see our 50th anniversary when big celebrations are planned!

We aim to be a friendly club, welcoming new members and visitors – partners can usually be arranged.



**Photo - when we were younger!**

## **Chairman's Blog #6**

For the past few weeks I have been in South Africa, playing bridge four times a week at the local bridge club. On three days a week bridge starts at 9am and it is an impressive sight to see the room filled with 20 tables or more waiting to start at such a time. The number of players swells greatly in the summer months as the town fills up with swallows, i.e. visitors who stay for up to three months, and others like ourselves who are more swifts than swallows as our annual stays are much shorter. In addition to South African nationals I counted French, American, Canadian, Dutch, Belgian and Irish players in addition to a large contingent of Brits at the club yesterday.

It is an eclectic mix of people and systems, the bridge is of variable standard just as it is at home and everybody is extremely friendly, just as it should be. I think that there should be more consideration given to daytime bridge as many older people prefer not to drive at night. I am aware that several Somerset clubs play in the afternoon and are very successful and I think more clubs could benefit from daytime sessions.

The South Africans have dispensed with the Stop Card and I congratulate them for getting rid of a protocol which is widely abused, is nearly always ignored and as far as I can tell adds nothing to the game. I should say that that's a personal opinion and not that of the SCBA which of course supports EBU guidelines!

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As was written in last month's newsletter longstanding players in both clubs and county will receive an obituary.

## **Pearl Heal - 28 September 1927 to 29 January 2019**

Pearl was born in September 1927 in Bridgwater. She was an only child, and her early years encompassed both the Great Depression and the Second World War. As a young adult, she attended a teacher training college in Salisbury, and after qualifying, she moved back to Bridgwater. Initially, she



worked at a school in Street, travelling daily, but she soon got a post at Eastover School in Bridgwater, and stayed there for the rest of her career until she retired in her mid-fifties.

Pearl married Dennis in 1950. They did not play bridge when first married, but they did play in many of the local whist drives. Bridge came much later, after they had learnt the basics whilst on holiday on a cruise. In those days, Pearl and Dennis played their club bridge mainly at Cannington and Burnham on Sea, and they also supported County



events. They went on many bridge holidays together during their retirement.

Pearl was a spirited lady, who always knew her own mind. Her big contention was that 'finesses never work for me'. This led her to play suit holdings in unexpected ways. Many an opponent was left red-faced when Pearl led away from a position in her closed hand. The opponent would not take their trick, convinced that their partner must hold a singleton honour, only to find their defensive trick melt away.

After Dennis's death in 2012, Pearl continued to play at Langport, and less frequently at Wells. She enjoyed her bridge right until the end, and last played just eight days before she died aged 91. She will be missed by all who knew her.

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## **And Finally**

Two elderly men Sam and Arthur, both avid bridge players, get some bad news, Arthur is dying. Sam says to Arthur, "Please Arthur when you get to heaven somehow send me a message and let me know if there's any bridge up there." Arthur says he'll try. Arthur passes away and a week goes by, not a word. Then suddenly Sam gets the call. "Sam" Arthur says, "there's good news and bad news. The good news is there's a duplicate on Tuesday, the bad news is you're playing".