

SOMERSET CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

**HANDBOOK &
PROGRAMME
2017-2018**

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Welcome to Somerset Contract Bridge Association (SCBA)

The SCBA and its Members

The SCBA is a county association member of the English Bridge Union (EBU), the national bridge organisation for England.

The aim of the SCBA is to promote duplicate bridge in the County of Somerset, and in the areas of North Somerset and North East Somerset, and to encourage participation in inter-county competitions as well as running inter-club and other competitions for its members.

Our Competitions

The SCBA organises and runs a wide range of competitions for clubs, and for its own members. Full details of our competitions during the 2017/2018 season can be found in this handbook and on the county website at www.bridgewebs.com/somerset/.

We also run the inter club competition for less experienced players. Our intention is to provide a more relaxed and less competitive environment for them. We hope that any member who rarely plays outside of their own club will support their club in this event. Full details can be found on page 13.

West of England Congress

The SCBA also organises and runs the West of England Congress, which attracts players from all over the country. This year it will be from 29th September to 1st October 2017, and will be back in the Winter Gardens in Weston-super-Mare.

Education

We have a programme of events to help you improve your bridge. In particular I am delighted that on 6th December 2017 Andrew Robson, one of the best known bridge teachers in the country, will be returning to the Webbington Hotel.

We will once again be holding two bridge café events this season. They have been very well attended in previous years so we have found some larger venues for them in Taunton and Street. There will be no charge for the café events, and we thank First for Bridge for their support for these events.

We shall also repeat the successful Bruton weekend and will continue to offer support to budding directors.

Please see the county website for full details of all our educational events and in particular our plans for the introduction of an accelerated learning programme for those who wish to learn the mechanics of the game quickly, leaving the subtleties until later.

I hope you have an enjoyable season.

Tony Russ
SCBA Chairperson

Somerset Contract Bridge Association

Educational Events sponsored by



We are delighted to announce that we are continuing with our sponsorship deal with First for Bridge.

First for Bridge has over 20 years' experience of organising bridge holidays, breaks, events & cruises in the UK and abroad.

Its professional service and attention to even the smallest details sets it apart from many other operators and creates the high standard its guests are used to.

First for Bridge holidays are licensed by the English Bridge Union (EBU).

First for Bridge's sponsorship allows us to provide our two café seminar events free for our members. It will also cover the cost of the prizes awarded to the winners of the Michael Coda Cup, which will benefit our nominated charity.

A discount of £20 per person is available for members of a Somerset bridge club for each new holiday booked before 1st July 2018. Quote SOM2017 when booking.

**To find out more about First for Bridge holidays go to
<http://www.arenatravel.com/our-holidays/first-for-bridge>**

SCBA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND COUNTY OFFICIALS

A. Committee Officers

CHAIRPERSON Tony Russ Tel: 01935 816566 tonyruss@me.com	VICE CHAIRPERSON Gina Howard Tel: 01761 221931 ginahoward@btinternet.com
SECRETARY Daphne Greatorex Tel: 01278 555897 daphnegreat@sky.com	MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY Sheila Coda Tel: 01984 632432 s.coda850@btinternet.com
TREASURER Richard Feetenby Tel: 01823 326226 richard.feetenby@trelleborg.com	TOURNAMENT SECRETARY Frank Coltman. Tel: 01373 451833 gina_frank@sky.com

B. Other Committee Members BRIDGE EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

CHAIR Jean Howard Tel: 01458 447097 howardjeanm@gmail.com	Ceri Pierce Tel: 01934 710626 ceri.pierce@btinternet.com
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C. County Officials

COUNTY TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR Colin Simcox Tel: 01963 351751 simcox@orchard-view.co.uk	CHAIRMAN OF SELECTORS Colin Juneman Tel: 01749 813439 colinjuneman167@btinternet.com
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BRIDGE CLUBS

Most clubs will provide a spare partner if notified in advance.

Note. Clubs denoted with an asterisk are not affiliated to the EBU and do not issue Master Points.

BRIDGWATER - 7pm Tue. Old School Room, Wembdon, Bridgwater.
Contact: mariancurrydavey@gmail.com

CANNINGTON - 7.15pm Thu. Upper Hall, Village Hall, Brook Street, Cannington.
Contact: John Scotford Tel 01728 661096 jescotford@yahoo.co.uk

CASTLE CARY - 7.15pm Thu. (not 1st Thu each month). Methodist Church Hall, North Street, Castle Cary. Contact: Margaret Bebbington Tel 01963 351886 or 07985 435412
margaretbebbington@hotmail.com

CHEDDAR - 7pm Wed. The Catholic Hall, Tweentown, Cheddar.
Contact: John Moore Tel 01934 842868 moorewilding@yahoo.co.uk

CHEW VALLEY* - 7.15pm Thu. Methodist Church Hall, Chapel Lane, Chew Stoke, BS40 8XD.
Contact: Alan Rodgman Tel 01761 220139 alanandmary_rodgman@fastmail.co.uk

CLEVEDON - 7.15pm Fri. The Ship Inn, Down Road, Portishead, BS20 8LF.
Contact: Lesley Floyd Tel 01275 879031

COSSINGTON* - 7pm Tue. Cossington Village Hall.
Contact: David Auld Tel 01278 722529

COXLEY* - 2pm & 7pm Mon. Coxley Memorial Hall. Nr Wells.
Contact: Natasha Smith Tel 01749 674729 tashawells@aol.com

CREWKERNE* - 7pm Mon. St Bartholomews Church Hall, Abbey Street, Crewkerne.
Contact: Johanna Hemmings Tel 01460 75061 johemm@btinternet.com

CROSS* - 7pm Thu. Cross Village Hall.
Contact: Pauline Pollard Tel 01278 76519 jane.crossbridgeclub@gmail.com

CURRY MALLET* - 2pm Mon. Barrington Village Hall.
Contact: Derek Pearce Tel 01458 250217

DULVERTON* - 6.30pm Mon. Fishers Mead Community Centre, Dulverton.
Contact: Brian Hughes Tel 01398 331219

FIVEHEAD* - 7pm Thu (not 2nd Thu each month). The Village Hall.
Contact: Vi Gray mudagray523@btinternet.com

FROME - 7pm Mon. Wesley Methodist Church, Wesley Slope, Frome.
Contact: John Perry Tel 01373 467508 jp007g9418@blueyonder.co.uk

ILMINSTER* - 7pm Tue. Speke Hall, Dowlish Wake.
Contact: Stuart Lang Tel 01935 822856 stuartlang60@gmail.com and
Mike Dobson Tel 01460 419475 jeanneandmikedobson@sky.com

KINGSTON SEYMOUR – 7.15pm Tue. Village Hall, Kingston Seymour, BS21 6XE.
Contact: Graham Daniel Tel 01275 856786 Mob 07810 773886 grahamldaniel@aol.com

LANGPORT - 7pm Mon. Ridgeway Hall, Stacey's Court, Bow Street, Langport.
Contact: Joan Pooley Tel 01823-354412 joan.pooley@sky.com

MINEHEAD – 6.45pm Tue & 6.30pm Thu. Methodist Church Hall, The Avenue, Minehead.
Contact: Sally Stuttard Tel 01984 640759 sallystuttard@btinternet.com

NAILSEA - 7.15pm Thu. Mizzymead Recreation Centre, Mizzymead Rise, Nailsea.
Contact: Tricia Morgan Tel 01275 463576 triciamorgan@greenbee.net

NORMANDY* - 7.15pm Mon, 2pm & 7.15pm Fri. Upper Floor of Unity Hall,
Central Road. Yeovil.
Contacts Chris & Alison Catchpole Tel 01935 825888 normandybridgeclub@hotmail.co.uk

PAWLETT* - 1.45pm Mon. Village Hall, Pawlett.
Contact: Margaret Adams Tel 01823 350772 mpa17@outlook.com

PORTISHEAD* - 7.15pm Wed. The Ship Inn, Down Road, Portishead, BS20 8LF.
Contacts: Lesley Floyd Tel 01275 879031 and Clive Bushby clivebushby@gmail.com

STREET* - 7pm Wed 1.30pm Thu. Victoria Club, Street.
Contact: Derek Essen Tel 01749 675049 derek.essen@gmail.com

TAUNTON - 7pm Wed & Fri. The Catholic Centre, The Mount, Taunton.
Contact: Lesley Garner Tel 01823 672119 tauntonbridge@yahoo.co.uk

TAUNTON DEANE* - 7pm Mon. Staplegrove Hall.
Contact: Julian Brown Mob 07766 302608 julian.r.brown@talk21.com

WEDMORE - 7pm Mon. Masonic Hall, Church Street, Wedmore
Contact: Steven Pedrick Tel 01934 712852 scpedwed@btinternet.com

WELLS - 7pm Tue. Seager Hall, Union Street, Wells BA5 2PU.
7pm Thu. St Thomas' Church Hall, St Thomas Street, Wells BA5 2UZ.
Contact: Geoff Davies geoffrdavies@gmail.com

WESTON SUPER MARE* – 7pm Wed, 2pm Fri & Sat St Joseph Church Hall, Camp Road,
Weston-super-Mare.
Contact: Janice King Tel 01934 417527 daphnegreat@sky.com

WILTON – 1.15pm Tue 7pm Wed and 1.15pm Fri Oake Village Hall, Saxon Close,
Oake, Taunton.
Contact: Monica Allfrey Tel 01823 252332 monica.allfrey@btinternet.com

WINSCOMBE - 7pm Fri. Community Centre, Sandford Road, Winscombe.
Contact: Geoffrey Seaman Mob 07730 283341 geoffrey.seaman@icloud.com

YEOVIL - 7pm Thu (teams on 4th Thu). Yeovil Sports & Social Club, Johnson Park, Tintinhull
Road, Yeovil. Contact: Bob Warrender Tel 01963 440070 marianandbob86@gmail.com

EBU AND SCBA MEMBERSHIP

A member of the SCBA is also a member of the EBU and can play in all the SCBA competitions.

Non-members of the SCBA and EBU may enter the Michael Coda Simultaneous pairs & the lowest division of the County League only.

CONVENTION CARDS

All players should ensure that they have a completed system card which is the same as their partner's. Failure to do so may result in a director ruling going against them.

VENUES

COSSINGTON TA7 8LH

Coming from the A39 turn down Manor Road by a thatched cottage, and bear right at a green triangle. Travel past Bell Lane for about 100m to the new housing development at Trivetts Way. Turn left into Trivetts Way, follow the road and the hall is on the right.

WOOLAVINGTON VILLAGE HALL.TA7 8HR (Near Junction 23 on M5.) Coming from the A39 at Bawdrip turn onto B3141 (by Garage) to Woolavington. Go straight through village and turn left into Higher Road. Hall is on the left.

COMPETITION INFORMATION

Competition Entry Procedure

The responsibility for confirming that a competition entry has been made via the county website and recorded is with the participating players. Entries to weekend one day events will close at the end of the preceding Sunday. By the end of the Monday preceding the one day event you must check that your entry has been received and registered on the county website. If your name is not on the list of participants on the website you will NOT be entered and if you turn up we would have the right not to allow you to play in the competition. Where neither member of a pair has web access, they should ring the Tournament Secretary no later than by the end of the Monday preceding the event, to check their entry has been correctly registered.

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2017-18

DATE	COUNTY	WESTERN LEAGUE	EBU	OTHER
JULY				
30	Barometer Pairs			
AUGUST				
4-13			Summer Congress	
5-6				East Wales Green Point
SEPTEMBER				
2-3			Crockfords Finals	
3	Mixed Pairs			
8-17			Guernsey Congress	
15	County League1			
16		East Wales away		
17	Paul Jones			
22-24				Cornwall Congress
23-24				Welsh Foursomes
29-1 Oct	West of England Congress			
OCTOBER				
7-8			Gold Cup Final	North Wales Green Point
9-15			Autumn Congress Greece	
13	Champ Teams Round 1			
14	Mixed Teams			
15		Wiltshire away		
20-22			Autumn Congress Reading	
27	County League 2			
27-29			Really Easy Weekend	
28-29				Malvern Congress
NOVEMBER				
3-5			Seniors Congress	
5	Restricted Inter Club Pairs			
10-12				Torquay Congress
18-19			Tollemache Qualifier	

24	County League 3			
25-26				Llangollen Congress
26	Swiss Teams			
DECEMBER				
1-3				Porthcawl Congress
2		Hereford home		
8	County League 4			
10	Mens & Ladies Pairs			
27-30			Year End Congresses	
JANUARY				
5-7				Midland Congress
7	Swiss Pairs			
12	County League 5			
13		Dorset away		
20-21			National Point a Board	
21	Restricted Inter Club Teams			
FEBRUARY				
1-7			Overseas Congress	
3		Cornwall home		
5-9	Michael Coda Sims			
9	County League 6			
10-11			Tollemache Final	East Wales Congress
17	Championship Pairs/Plate			
23	County League 7			
MARCH				
3-4				Wiltshire Green Point
10	Teams of 8			
16	County League 8			
18			National Pairs Regional Final	
22	Pairs League 1			
25			Portland Pairs	
30	Pairs League 2			
30-2 Apr			Easter Festival	
APRIL				
4	Pairs League 3			
6-8			Really Easy Weekend	Devon Congress
7-8				North Wales Congress
13	Pairs League 4			
14-15			National Pairs Final	
21		Devon away	Garden Cities Regional Final	
27	County League 9			
27-6 May			Jersey Congress	
29	Percentage Final			
MAY				
1	Pairs League 5			
4-8			Spring Foursomes	

5-6				Cheltenham Congress
11	County League Reserve			
12-13			National Swiss Teams	
13		Avon home		
19-20				Avon Green Point
20				Hampshire Green Point
26-28			Spring Bank Holiday Congress	
27	AGM & Swiss Teams			
JUNE				
2-3			Corwen Trophy	
9-10			Pachabo Cup	
9-10				Oxfordshire Congress
17				Dorset Green Point
23			Garden Cities Final	
29-1 Jul				Torquay Congress
JULY				
6-8			Summer Seniors Congress	
21-22				Gloucestershire & Hereford Green Point
22				Dorset Green Point
25-29			Scarborough Congress	

Start and Arrival Times

The start time for the one day weekend events is 2pm, EXCEPT the Championship Pairs on 17th February 2017 will commence at 1pm.

We request that members turn up for an event no later than 15 minutes before the official start time, and register their arrival. In this way we will know exactly how many participants we have and this will help the Director to start on time.

Inter-Club Competitions

Entry to the events should be made by the club secretary direct to the Tournament Secretary and it is hoped that the club will pay the entry fee of £4 per player either by cheque or direct to the SCBA account.

Championship Teams of Four

The team captain should send the entry fee of £4 per player to Frank Coltman at the time of entry, and before the 1st September 2017.

County League

Arrangements should be made by the club secretary (or other club official) to send the entry fee to Bob Warrender at the time of entry, and by the 1st September 2017. The club secretary (or other club official) must confirm that all members of each team being entered are bone fide members of the club. The entry fee will vary according to the number of rounds to be played by the team in their respective leagues. (7 rounds £40, 8 rounds £45, 9 rounds £50.)

The number of team entries expected for each league and the corresponding number of rounds should be published on the website during August 2017.

Percentage Pairs

The list of entrants from each Club and each result should be sent to Eric Cummings, email address: ecummings@solstice-uk.com

The entry fee is £4.00 per player and each club should send a single cheque to the County Treasurer for all its entrants.

One Day Pairs & Teams Competitions

Entries should be made directly on the SCBA Web Site or by post to the Tournament Secretary. Entry fees should not be sent with them. The entry fee will be collected on the day of the competition.

Payments by Cheques

All cheques should be made payable to Somerset Contract Bridge Association.

Charges on the day of Competitions

A charge of £12.00 per player will be made on the day of the event to cover the entry fee, tea and all other expenses. The charge will be reduced to £8.00 for anyone who does not want to take tea and has advised this exception in writing at the time of booking. Where the £4.00 entry fee has already been paid by a club for an inter club competition or the percentage pairs, the charge on the day will be £8.00 per player or £5.00 for those not taking tea.

Charges for Junior Members

Junior members will not be charged for either entry or tea.

Permitted Conventions Level

All county events will be Level 4.

Late cancellation or failure to arrive in time for an event

PLAYERS NOT GIVING 48 HOURS NOTICE OF CANCELLATION TO THE TOURNAMENT SECRETARY WILL BE ASKED TO PAY THE COST OF THE TEA ORDERED.

Master Points

Master points for all county run events will be directly credited with the EBU. In some cases it may take just over a month for your EBU master point record to be updated.

If an SCBA affiliated club is running a heat of the Michael Coda Cup simultaneous pairs, it will be subject to the P2P rules for affiliated clubs. The P2P file created for the heat will need to be loaded on to the club section of the EBU website in the normal way. Master points for the club heat will then be directly credited to each member's record by the EBU. Additional master points for a good performance within the entire field will be directly credited via the SCBA.

Errors in scoring and protest period

In all County Events, where results are generally produced on the day, the period for correction of scoring errors is 30 minutes after the provisional score has been completed and made available for inspection.

If any result is subject to an Appeals Committee ruling, the 30 minutes protest time starts after the amended result is posted (Law 79C1). However, any keying error by the Director may be corrected by Law 79C2 when scores are routinely checked and the Director and the Tournament Secretary are both satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that the scoring is wrong.

Where queries are raised and double checking of results is required, the correction period is 48 hours after the official amended score has been confirmed as correct and advised to those concerned.

SOMERSET QUALIFICATION FOR INTER-COUNTY COMPETITIONS

Other than for the Garden Cities Trophy, a player who is invited to represent the county within a pair or team for any of the following events must have:

- (a) declared primary allegiance to Somerset at the time the invitation is made, and
- (b) for EBU events the player must also meet the EBU's primary allegiance requirements for the 2017/2018 season.

Corwen Trophy

The first three pairs in our Championship Pairs, who are eligible and have scored 50% or more in the final, will be invited to represent Somerset on the 2nd & 3rd June 2018. If any of these pairs are unable to play, a substitute eligible pair will be invited to represent the county provided they have scored 50% or more in the final.

Pachabo Cup

The eligible team members of the winner of our Championship Teams will be invited to represent Somerset on the 9th and 10th June 2018. If any of the winning team is unable to play in the final, some or all of the eligible team members of the losing finalist will be invited to represent Somerset, either as a complete team or playing with some of the Championship team.

Garden Cities Trophy

The winners of our Club Team of Eight competition automatically represent Somerset in the Regional Final at Bristol on the 21st April 2018 from which the teams that qualify go on to the National Finals on Saturday 23rd June 2018. Different and/or extra players may be selected at both finals but not if having played in the event for another club.

Tollemache Cup

The Tollemache is a prestigious EBU event and attracts the best players from each county. The Selection Committee takes into account performance in County competitions with particular emphasis on the Championship Teams of Four, the County League for Clubs, and the Pairs League, as well as the Victor Ludorum ranking list. The Selection Committee are also attaching considerable emphasis on performance in the Western League plus regional and national performances in both teams and pairs competitions. The selected team will represent Somerset in the qualifier on the 18th and 19th November 2017.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION

All clubs entering the competition must be located within the SCBA's geographical boundary, which covers the county of Somerset, and the areas of North Somerset and North East Somerset. Clubs close to the border, but outside, are also permitted to enter.

The Club Championship consists of two separate events, one for teams and the other for pairs.

Entries to each event will be restricted to club members who were below the rank of national master on 1st July 2017.

An individual is not permitted to represent one club in the team event and another club in the pairs' events.

Non-affiliated clubs may enter teams/pairs so long as the players are members of the EBU but the club itself will not be eligible for the Club Championship.

How the Club Competition is scored

Each event will be run as an all play all (numbers permitting) but will be stratified into a maximum of 3 roughly equal sections using current NGS ranking once entries are known. The top ten places in each of the sections are allocated Club Points. Ten Club Points are allocated to first place, nine to second and so on down to one Club Point for tenth place.

An individual club is allocated Club Points for their best performing representative team or pair in each section, but only if they finished in the top ten. For example if a club had three representatives in a section and they finished in the top three places, the club would only qualify for ten Club Points from that section. The Club Points for second and third place though would not be available to another club, so the maximum Club Points another club could qualify for would be seven from their representative's fourth place finish.

The Club Points for each club are then totalled over the sections from both events and the Club Championship will be awarded to the club with the highest total Club Points.

The Club Championship Events

Inter Club Pairs

Date: Sunday 5th November 2017 at Woolavington

There is no restriction on the number of pairs per club for this event.

The Lundie Rees Cup will be awarded to the winners of the lowest NGS grade section of this event.

Inter Club Teams of Four

Date: Sunday 21st January 2018 at Woolavington.

There is no restriction on the number of team entries per club for this event

COUNTY TEAM EVENTS

CHAMPIONSHIP TEAMS OF FOUR

Event Holders: Eric Cummings, Colin Flood, Alan & Jette Bailey

Green points are awarded at all stages for this our principal knockout teams' event. It should be noted that no more than two specified members of the team can have primary allegiance to another county at the time of entry and then throughout the entire period the team is participating in the event. A player may not be a member of more than one team.

The event is a knockout competition and entries must be submitted by 1st September 2017 to Frank Coltman.

The first round matches will be played at Woolavington on Friday October 13th 2017, unless prior approval has been granted by the Tournament Secretary for a first round match to be played privately by arrangement. All of the second and subsequent round matches will be played privately by arrangement.

To avoid long delays in playing matches the captains must agree two dates (both to be before the round's final play by date). In the event that the first date cannot be met then the second date becomes mandatory. If there are still problems, the Tournament Secretary must be contacted. He has the ultimate right to dismiss one or both teams if he reasonably believes that insufficient effort has been made to ensure a match is completed by the round's play by date.

The first round matches will be over 24 boards and will be played in two 12 board stanzas. In the second round (and third round if required) the matches will be over 32 boards, in the semi-final over 40 boards and in the final over 48 boards. Matches in the second and subsequent rounds will be played in 8 board stanzas. In the event of a tie, extra boards equivalent to one eighth of the scheduled match are played and the procedure repeated until a victor is decided.

Seating Rights. A seating right is how to place one's own pairs after the opponents have seated at the beginning of for each stanza. The captain winning the toss may take the first choice or pass it to his opposing captain. The first choice is restricted to selecting just one stanza to have the seating right. The choice then alternates. In the second and subsequent rounds, after the first choice the captains alternatively select two of the remaining stanzas at a time (but not the final two stanzas at one turn), until just one stanza remains.

TEAMS OF FOUR PLATE

Losers of first round matches will join 2nd round losers in a Plate competition redrawn at the end of Round 2 of the Championship Teams. Subsequent matches will be played privately by arrangement and will be of 24 boards (with two stanzas of 12 boards) with a final of 32 boards (4 stanzas of 8 boards). Seating rights will be the same as in the main championship teams' competition.

CLUB TEAMS OF EIGHT

Date: Saturday 10th March 2018 at Woolavington

Event Holders: Wells

Clubs may enter any number of teams of eight bona fide club members who need not be SCBA members but must be members of the EBU.

COUNTY LEAGUE FOR CLUBS 2017 – 2018

Date: Specified Fridays at Woolavington Village Hall

Event Holders:

Division A: Taunton RS Division B: Langport AA

Division C: Wilton TM

Starting in on 15th September 2017 and continuing throughout the season, regular 24 board matches are played in three divisions and scored by imps converted to VPs.

Clubs may enter as many teams as they wish.

It is preferred that matches are played on the advertised date, at Woolavington, and with the pre-dealt boards used by all teams. Each team should have a pool of up to eight core players on which to call. A player in the team's core group cannot play in one of the club's other teams. However, a club can form a non-core group of players who can be available to play for any of the club's teams, if and only if a team is unable to fulfil a fixture with players from its core group. A player from a club's non-core group can play up to two times for a single club team during the season. Where a team cannot raise enough players on the night, the opposing captain has the right to refuse to play a rearranged match.

PAUL JONES

Date: Sunday September 17th at Woolavington

Event Holders: Roger Sweet, David Jones, Alan & Jette Bailey

Captains partner each of the other three team members in rotation.

MIXED TEAMS OF FOUR

Date: Saturday 14th October 2017 at Woolavington

Event Holders: Graham Heal, Roger Sweet, David & Gina Howard

Teams of four must include at least one man and one woman.

COUNTY SWISS TEAMS

Date: Sunday 26th November 2017 at Woolavington

Event Holders: Eric Cummings, Ceri Pierce, Alan & Jette Bailey

AGM SWISS TEAMS

Date: Sunday 27th May 2018 at Woolavington after the AGM which starts at 1pm.

Event Holders: Cyndi Harris, Rachel Pantling, Michael Toft & Ray Walder

Partnerships will draw for team mates from two pools of players - the 'Lions' and the 'Tigers'. The 'Lions' will be the pool of pairs with the highest NGS rankings in the field. Their 'Tigers' team mates will be from the pool of pairs with the lowest NGS rankings in the field. During each round the teams' pair from the Lions pool will play against each other, and consequently the teams' pairs from the Tigers' pool will also play against each other. There will be prizes for first place and for the best ascending team in the second half.

COUNTY PAIRS EVENTS

CHAMPIONSHIP PAIRS AND PLATE

Date: Saturday 17th February 2018 at Woolavington
Championship Holders: Michael Toft & Ray Walder
Championship Pairs Plate Holders: Tom Gibbard & David Porter

Green Points are awarded in the final of our principal pairs' event.
All entrants will play in the 24-26 board qualifier, with the leading 14 pairs playing an all play all final over 26 boards. The non-qualifiers will play in the Championship Pairs Plate event.

COUNTY PERCENTAGE INDIVIDUAL FINAL

Sunday 29th April 2018 at Woolavington
Event Holder: Gillian Toogood

Entries should be made via a single club from the beginning of July 2017. The average of the 10 best club sessions played from the date of entry up to the end of March 2018 will determine the entrant's qualifying result. The top 52 scores will be invited to play in an individual final.

A club should send a list of its entrants and the results of each club session as soon as it is held to Eric Cummings (ecummings@solstice-uk.com). Clubs should maintain and make available to its participants a record of the scores obtained at each of its sessions.

MIXED PAIRS

Date: Sunday 3rd September 2017 at Woolavington
Event Holders: David & Gina Howard

LADIES & MEN'S PAIRS

Date: Sunday 10th December 2017 at Woolavington
Ladies' Holders: Wendy Miller & Sheena Lanham
Men's Holders: Roger Sweet & Colin Juneman

Both events are played simultaneously.

SWISS PAIRS for the De Villiers Hart Trophy

Date: Sunday 7th January 2018 at Woolavington
Event Holders: Colin Juneman & Roger Sweet

CHARITY SIMULTANEOUS PAIRS for the Michael Coda Cup

Date: 5th –9th February 2018 at the Clubs
Trophy Holders: Barbara Biggin & Gillian Toogood

This simultaneous pairs' event is open to members of all affiliated and non-affiliated clubs within the SCBA's geographical area. All entry fees and donations, less the costs of running the event, will be donated to this year's nominated charity. The event is scored over the entire field.

PAIRS LEAGUE

Dates: 22nd & 30th March 2018, 4th & 13th April 2018, 1st May 2018

Event Holders:

Division 1: Roger Sweet & David Howard

Division 2: Mike Smith & Wendy Miller tied with Mike Powell & Martin Holcombe

Division 3: Joan Pooley & Nigel Hamlyn

Division 4: John Staite & Katrina Foote

This competition is open to all pairs, but it is a particularly important competition for those pairs who would like to be considered for selection to play in one of our county teams.

The competition will start in March 2018 and will consist of five *Team Imped* pairs evening sessions. As the hands will have been played at previous Tollemache events, there will be a reliable par score for each hand against which each pairs result will be *Imped* as if they were playing a team of four game. This will be a test of pairs playing in a teams' environment and will be of use to the county selectors.

The organiser will allocate the pairs entering to divisions, taking into account last year's performance. The size of the divisions and the criteria for promotion/relegation will be decided when the number of entries is known. Each pair will play each other pair in their division after which matches will be allocated on a Swiss basis.

By entering, pairs are making a binding commitment that if one or both are unable to play in any session, they will make every endeavour to work with the event organiser to find a substitute player or pair of broadly similar standard to play in their place.

Further details about the event will be published early in 2018 on the county website.

CYNTHIA DAY TROPHY (VICTOR LUDORUM)

Holder: Roger Sweet

The list of qualifying events can be found on the website.

The number of VL points available for each qualifying event depends on its importance and the number of players competing. Full details of the VL scale for each qualifying event can be found on the county website.

The trophy is won by the player with the largest total of VL points - any tie being broken in favour of the player with the largest number of first places, then second places etc.

TERRY GIRDLESTONE CUP

Holders: Roger Sweet & Colin Juneman, Eric Cummings & Ceri Pierce, Colin Flood & Sheila Coda, Alan & Jette Bailey

The Terry Girdlestone Cup is awarded this year to the team who represented Somerset in the Tollemache Qualifier, and by coming 2nd in their group, qualified for a place in the Tollemache Final.

In future, the Terry Girdlestone Cup can be awarded to any SCBA member in recognition of their work in promoting bridge at their club, and the winner will be presented with the cup at the AGM, and will hold the trophy for a year. Their work may be in an administrative capacity, setting up programmes and teaching bridge to encourage people to play the game, or for being role models showing exemplary behaviour at the table. Any nominations should come from the Committee of the club, and should be received by 1st April 2018, to allow a decision to be made by the SCBA Committee.

THE COUNTY'S NOMINATED CHARITY EVENT

Each year one or more bridge events are organized and promoted by the SCBA Committee in support of its nominated charity. Last year £1,461 was raised for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

The Michael Coda Cup is the County's principal fund raising event. It is a simultaneous pairs' competition open to affiliated and non-affiliated clubs within the SCBA's geographical area. It will be held on each day during the week of 5th-9th February 2018. All of the entry fees and donations, less costs incurred by the SCBA, are passed on to the nominated charity. We would like to thank our sponsors First for Bridge for covering the cost of the prizes for this event.

The result on each board at a participating club will be compared with the result for all other pairs from all of the participating clubs to obtain an overall result. Nearly all the organisation required for a club to participate will be taken care of by the SCBA Committee. Your club secretary will be contacted about the event, but it would help if you could lobby your own club's committee to hold a heat of this event.

WEST OF ENGLAND CONGRESS

**The Winter Gardens
Weston-super-Mare
Friday 29th September to Sunday 1st October 2017**

**Full details including Congress Entry Form available from the SCBA website at
www.bridgewebs.com/somerset**

(INCORPORATING 2 GREEN POINTED EVENTS)

2017 PROGRAMME

Friday 29th September 2017

LADIES' PAIRS 1.45pm

MEN'S PAIRS 1.45pm

MIXED PAIRS 1.45pm

CHAMPIONSHIP PAIRS 7.15pm

Saturday 30th September 2017

GREEN POINTED SWISS PAIRS

FIRST SESSION 1.00pm

(4 x 7 Board Matches)

SECOND SESSION 7.00pm

(3 x 7 Board Matches)

Sunday 1st October 2017

GREEN POINTED SWISS TEAMS

FIRST SESSION 11.30am

(3x7 Board Matches)

SECOND SESSION 3.00pm.

(4x7 Board Matches)

There will be break of approximately 30 minutes between sessions

Green Points to EBU Scale and Cash Prizes