

## March 2019 Newsletter



SOMERSET CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION



### UPCOMING EVENTS

**29<sup>th</sup> March** Bruton Weekend – more info on SCBA website

**During April** there are 3 more rounds of the Pairs League

**12<sup>th</sup> April** County League 8 at Woolavington at 7.15 pm

**28<sup>th</sup> April** Championship Pairs at Woolavington at 1 pm

All these events are **BB@B** ones.

### Recent Results

**Teams of Eight** – This event was won by Wells with Taunton second and Langport third and fourth. Wells will represent the county in the regional final at Bristol in May.



**As reported in last month's newsletter the Michael Coda Cup was won by Eve Dent and Joe Melmoth from Taunton B C**



**SCBA received a letter of thanks from the charity:**

**Hello Somerset Bridge Association,**

**I hope our thank you letter reached you for your wonderful donation of £2000, it was very gratefully received.**

**I called the number of your Facebook page to say this but the person who answered was in the middle of a bridge game and was unable to speak, so apologies for disturbing him. I therefore felt it might be better to send an email.**

**If you would like us to come and speak at one of your events to say thank you and speak about our charity to help raise further awareness for our free cancer services do let me know.**

**Once again, we are so thankful for your kind support.**

### **The Terry Girdlestone Trophy**

**Last year the County instituted a new award which was won by Alan Atkinson. This year we want to find another recipient, so please send in nominations. 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**

## **Club of the Month – Wedmore**

**Bridge first started in the village of Wedmore in 1974. The club is currently affiliated to the English Bridge Union (EBU) and Somerset Contract Bridge Association (SCBA).**

**Meetings started informally in the ‘The Borough Venture’ ladies fashion store in the centre of Wedmore playing Rubber Bridge for ‘a penny a hundred’. Over time the gathering became more formal with the aim of organising Contract Bridge on a regular basis in a friendly and sociable atmosphere.**

**Founding member, Mrs Suzanne Metters, who owned the store, chaired and played in the club for many years and last year was awarded Honorary Life Membership. As the membership has grown, Wedmore Bridge Club has had several venues, settling in 1981 in Wedmore Masonic Hall, its current home. Membership includes players of County and Regional ranking in addition to the regular domestic players. Barbara Biggin, well known in County circles, was a pioneer with the club and has been a regular member ever since. With an average annual membership of 70 the Wedmore Bridge community can and does come together to support one another in times of need. The club is also closely linked with the Wedmore Golf Club - Bridge Section. In addition to weekly duplicate pairs, there are many domestic club competitions as well as national EBU SIM Pairs events. Recently introduced is a Christmas SIM Pairs evening with Langport Bridge Club where the results are electronically combined and submitted to the EBU. Bridge in Wedmore has been and continues to be a catalyst for organised competitions that regularly donate thousands of pounds to local charities.**

**The club provides equipment and support to single day charity events in Wedmore where over 80 participants can be playing on a single day. The club directly dedicates an evening to support the national Children in Need charity.**

**The club meets on a Monday evening in Wedmore at the Masonic Hall. Details are contained on the club Bridgewebs site. Visitors are welcome. The club is fully digital with BridgeTabs scoring and**

computer generated hands providing comprehensive post play analysis.



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## **EBU Offer**

From Tim Anderson , the EBU Membership Development Officer and I would like to use the newsletter to publicise this offer. Interested parties should contact Tim via email [tim@ebu.co.uk](mailto:tim@ebu.co.uk)

I wanted to let you know of a new offer from the EBU to support membership development. This is for clubs which are struggling to pay for room hire for bridge teaching sessions. In a nutshell:

- the EBU can pay up to £20 per week/session provided this is no more than 50% of the total hire cost
- this offer is only for clubs who would otherwise struggle to afford the room

If there are any clubs who you think might need this please do let them know.

Also

**Bridge Teacher Training**

The Exeter course is running:

**Exeter BC (Devon) - Monday 15th and Tuesday 16th April**

Not very far away, so I wonder if you would like to circulate details to clubs and remind them of the EBU's offer of free places.

## FFB

We have just completed our fourth FFB weekend this time in Taunton. There were 19 participants in an intensive weekend led expertly by Caroline Macpherson and supported wonderfully by members of Taunton Bridge club. At the end of the weekend all the students were able to play a basic game of bridge and this basic learning will now be followed up by a course of ten lessons on Friday evenings after which we hope that our course members will become members of the bridge club and enjoy the best card game in the world for many years to come.



## **EBED**

EBED's Club Teacher Training courses for 2019 are well under way. Our next course with availability is being held at Bristol Bridge Club.

### **BOOK NOW, LIMITED AVAILABILITY**

**Bristol Bridge Club - Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th April 2019**

You can see more information about the course on the [EBEDCIO website](#), as well as our Course Catalogue for 2019.

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### **How to create a novice-friendly culture in your bridge club – from the EBU website**

Bridge clubs need to attract new members, for lots of reasons which you will find explained elsewhere on this site. Why though does one club grow while another struggles? There are many factors (some of which are beyond anyone's control) but one which bears examination is whether a club is an attractive one for a newcomer to join.

I may be a little biased, but I consider bridge players to be a friendly bunch in general and that most clubs give visitors and newcomers a warm welcome. Nevertheless, it is also true that a bridge club can be a little intimidating. Bridge is an exceptionally absorbing game that demands skill and concentration, and chatter at the table is difficult since it disturbs others and can give away information. This means we need to work hard to create an atmosphere in which every members feels welcome, from novice to expert.

How do we do this? Here are a few ideas.

First, the role of the director in this is critical. The director sets the tone of a club session. If there is a new player or pair, it goes without

**saying that the director should make sure they know the names and make them welcome in their announcement just before play begins.**

**Second, it is great if clubs celebrate the achievements of every member rather than just their top players. For example, the EBU's National Grading Scheme shows not only the percentage achieved by each pair in a session, but also by how much they exceeded or fell short of expectations. You can see this by double-clicking a session in My EBU. This makes it easy for clubs to highlight not only the top scorers, but also those who most exceed their expected result.**

**Third, it is worth making an effort to make club management committees inclusive, seeking a balance between male and female, novice and expert. If the committee is entirely composed of top players, it is not surprising if the club inadvertently gives the impression to newcomers that it is only for bridge experts. People often learn bridge in middle age or later and have rich work experience; clubs can benefit by bringing them onto the committee and learning from them.**

**At the EBU, we have noticed that it is often the clubs with the highest bridge standards that struggle most to maintain or grow numbers. It is a dilemma because of course we love to see highly skilled players and for members to improve their game. On the other hand, we also want to see more people enjoying and benefiting from bridge which implies clubs with a diversity of playing ability. In the end, we believe it is not only possible but desirable for clubs to provide for members at every level.**

**Giving a warm welcome to novices is one of the secrets of a happy and healthy bridge club.**

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## **CHAIRMAN'S BLOG #7**

Last weekend our fourth Fast Forward to Bridge weekend took place in Taunton. This was attended by 19 students of whom 18 made it through to the end of day two and after which all understood the rudiments of bridge and were able to play a simple game. The weekend will be followed by 10 weeks of tuition and practice using on line resources after which students will we hope feel confident to play in the bridge club.

Having completed two such courses and with two more underway at present we are already confident that we can recommend this course to other clubs wishing to become or continue to be teaching clubs. Players from our first courses are already playing club bridge at Sherborne, Castle Cary and Street.

As you know we have appointed Gina Coltman as our EBU club membership development officer and it will be a vital component of any club's development programme that it appreciates the role of teaching if membership levels are to be maintained. I do hope that clubs will take advantage of what Gina has to offer as some of our clubs face declining numbers and your committee is trying hard to reverse this process.

Last year we inaugurated a Club Person of the Year Award to reward someone who had worked enthusiastically for a club over several years. Please give some thought to nominating someone from your club who meets this criterion and send the nomination with a few words of explanation to [Sheila Coda](#). If your nomination last year was unsuccessful please try again- we can only honour one person each year.

Thank you to all who played in the Michael Coda Cup which raised £2000 for our chosen charity, Penny Brohn, from whom we received a nice letter of thanks.

We look ahead to our congress in October and already there are a few entries. This is our major event of each year and I hope for a massive turn out of local players in support of their county.

The EBU is offering free places on teacher training courses and is also offering to pay some of the facility hire costs for teaching courses in some circumstances. Please read all about this in our next newsletter.

Happy Easter to you all.

Tony

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## Social Media – New Responsibility

We are seeking a social media enthusiast to promote our Facebook and Twitter accounts. If this volunteer position appeals to you please contact [Tony](#). You can see our Facebook page [here](#). We would like to have much more activity on these accounts but lack the necessary expertise but there must be someone amongst our members who has the necessary expertise and enthusiasm. If so please don't hold back and get in touch for a discussion if nothing else.

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## And Finally



