



## **Upcoming Events**

**April 27<sup>th</sup> - County League final matches**

**April 29<sup>th</sup> – Percentage Final**

**May 1<sup>st</sup> – Pairs league final two matches**

**May 27<sup>th</sup> – AGM followed by Swiss teams. Only pairs need apply, teams will be made up on the day.**

It should be noted that the Secretary must receive any of the following in writing (preferably by e-mail) by Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2018:

- A. Nominations for any of the Officer positions on the Executive Committee supported by a proposer and seconder, all of whom must be current members of the SCBA
- B. Nominations for any of the six non Officer positions on the Executive Committee supported by a proposer and seconder, all of whom must be current members of the SCBA
- C. Any special resolution that is to be discussed and voted on at the AGM under Item 9, duly proposed and seconded by two current members of the SCBA

## **AGENDA**

1. Silence for deceased members
2. Apologises for absence
3. Approval of the minutes of AGM 2017 (copy can be found on the county website)

4. Matters arising from the 2017 minutes
5. Chairperson's Annual Report (to be tabled)
6. Treasurer's Report and adoption of Accounts (to be tabled)
7. Tournament Secretary's Report (to be tabled)
8. Election of Officers and other Executive Committee members for 2018/19
9. Any Special Resolutions
- 10.AOB

Reports for items 5,6 and 7 will be available at [www.bridgewebs.com/somerset](http://www.bridgewebs.com/somerset) at least a week before the meeting.

At the end of the AGM's formal business the prizes for the County competitions in 2017/2018 will be awarded

Non-EBU members are welcome to attend in a non-voting capacity and take part in the Swiss Teams event that will follow the meeting.

## **BB @ B**

We all know what's expected so let's make a big thing of BB@B in Somerset. Bridge is an extremely enjoyable game. Courteous behaviour is an exceptionally important part of that enjoyment and the SCBA is committed to this principle. It is everyone's job to ensure that they show consideration at all times. Included in this are post mortems. Which can be as annoying for opponents as they are to partners.

"I do not engage in post mortems, for I think the players who habitually do so make a bore of the most entertaining game that the art of man has devised." Somerset Maugham.

## **Nominations wanted:**

The Terry Girdlestone Trophy is to be awarded to any Somerset member who has contributed above and beyond to bridge in our area, and whose behaviour was exemplary. 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 on May 27th

## **West Of England Congress** (from Tony Russ)

As I write there are only 171 bridge playing days until the start of Congress2018 which once again will be held at the traditional Winter Gardens venue in Weston. Already entries have been received which suggests that we shall reach and maybe exceed the 84 teams that entered last year. Full details of this year's event and how to enter can be found [here](#) and you can enter by clicking [here](#).



Last year's Congress

## **Grants available to clubs for capital expenditure**

Once again a fund is available from which grants can be made to assist affiliated clubs with capital expenditure. Applications are being taken, and should be made by Monday 30th April.

The most common applications have in the past been for assistance with buying dealing machines or wireless scoring systems, though in principle any capital expenditure might qualify. You can read about the grants given in 2016 and 2017 on the EBU website..

The EBU will provide funding to successful applicants of no more than half the total expenditure, but there is a limited fund available and in order to help as many clubs as possible those who apply for a smaller proportion are more likely to be successful.

Clubs that are successful must undertake to remain affiliated to the EBU for at least three years or else to repay the appropriate portion of the grant.

Applicants should email [gordon@ebu.co.uk](mailto:gordon@ebu.co.uk) with the following information:

- What equipment is needed and what is its total cost
- How much contribution from the EBU is being requested

- Where the remaining funds will come from
- Why the club can't fund the entire purchase (providing a copy of the club's accounts might be useful supporting documentation in this regard)
- Whether other clubs will also benefit from the grant, such as if the club is intending to deal boards for another club as well.

## General Data Protection Regulations

You may already have seen reference to the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which comes into force on 25th May 2018. The purpose of the GDPR is to provide a set of standard data protection laws across the EU, making it easier for you to understand how your data is being used and to give you greater control over its use. The SCBA undertakes to collect and use your personal data in compliance with the GDPR. Our legal basis for processing this data is our legitimate interest as a membership organisation. We use the data for the administration of your membership, the communication of information and the organisation of events. We share this information with Bridgewebs who act as data processors on our behalf. A considerable amount of information about the changes which come into force on May 25th can be found on the [EBU web site here](#). The Information Commissioner's Office has also published a guide which you can [read here](#). You will read that there are several lawful bases for processing information and one is [Legitimate interests](#) which you may decide to rely on so long as you only use the data for reasons which club members would reasonably expect.

The SCBA will be publishing its privacy notice shortly.

## COUNTY NEWS

### Garden Cities Regional final

Having won the Somerset heat of this event Taunton Bridge Club represented the county in the regional final on April 21st. The team finished sixth out of nine in the event which was won by the Petersfield club from Hampshire who proceed to the national final.

### Championship teams of four.

The semi finals have now taken place. In the first semi Roger Sweet's team narrowly defeated Sheena Lanham by 7imps to set up a final against Colin Flood's combo who defeated the Patrick team by 24imps. The winning team

in the final will qualify to represent Somerset in the Pachabo event later in the summer.

## **Pairs League**

There is one final round of two matches left in PL2018. Leading positions are:

Division 1	Division 2	Division 3
Coltman & Simcox 95	99 Lanham & Ridgers	118 Bryant & Ashford
Cummings & Pierce 92	88 Biggin & Skinner	102 Maggs & McDermott
Coda & Flood	87	
Division 4		
Gudgeon & Scard	94	
Holder & Cox	90	

## **County League**

As I write the county league has one final round of matches to be played on April 27th.

Taunton(RS) has won the first division title with a match to spare whilst things look gloomy for Wells (SL) and Langport (AA) at the other end of the table. It's closer at the top of Division 2 particularly as Taunton (JB) on 102 pts. play Langport (LH) on 96 points in the last match. At the other end Wilton (TM) are already down and Wells (PQ) need a big win against Sherborne (PD) to avoid the drop.

First play second in the third division. Street (DE) lead on 116 and Castle Cary (BS) have 91 followed closely by Cossington (DA) on 89/

## **Western League**

The county played against Devon in the Western League on April 21st'

A Lost 0-20 and are in 5th place with one match to play.

B Won 16-4 and barring a disaster against Avon in the final match will win the division.

C Lost 7-13 and are in 7th place.

The final round of matches against Avon takes place on May 13th.

## This Month's Featured Club

### Clevedon BC

In the 1980's Colin and Lesley Floyd chose Clevedon for their retirement after living in numerous locations around the globe. Along with their passion for golf, with the game of bridge coming a very close second, they soon realised no bridge club existed in Clevedon and soon rectified this situation.

The club's first venue was in the humble surroundings of the town's tennis club, and as membership grew several different church rooms. During this period a sister club was formed in Portishead choosing the Ship public house as its base, and eventually Clevedon BC moved there as well.

Sadly Colin passed away several years ago and although Lesley continued to run the bridge club in July 2017 she approached certain members with the wish to retire. So in August 2017 C and P bridge club became a members club.

This friendly club runs 2 sessions a week - Wednesday (handicapped pairs) and on Friday, play commences at 7-15pm with results available immediately



after play finishes and master points being awarded at both sessions.

Lesley also runs an independent afternoon session at Clevedon golf club during the winter months, where less experienced players are welcome

The committee (pictured left) is improving equipment and is

encouraging members to enter county events. We are also working with Kingston Seymour, Nailsea, and Yatton bridge clubs in the new initiative of offering all members improvement seminars with inter club competitions a future goal

Visitors are always welcome and details of location or contact details can be found on our website

## Two Articles from our Chairman

### Assisted Play

A few Mondays ago I visited the Normandy club run by Chris Catchpole in Yeovil. This was part of my attempt to visit as many clubs as possible in Somerset. I was particularly interested by this visit because of Chris' unique approach.

There were 8 full tables in play with Chris' wife Alison and his daughter making up the round numbers. There was no instruction or pre-dealt boards. The players simply dealt for the first round and just played bridge feeling free to ask Chris for advice and were able to use simple aides memoires. After each hand the players completed a traveller observing what others had done on the hand and when the round was completed a Mitchell movement was used.

The most interesting thing to me was that there was no scoring and therefore no results. So are no winners or losers and nobody is deterred by being seen to be doing badly every week.

Everybody seemed to be enjoying the game of bridge for its own sake and I thought this model of assisted play was something that we really should see more of. Some players will be happy to stay at this level but I'm sure there will be many who want to go on to learn more and to play competitively, having developed enthusiasm and confidence through this sort of approach.

### Is there a deal of truth in the theory that N/S get better hands?

I doubt very much if there are many bridge players in Somerset who still believe that the earth is flat, that Neil Armstrong's walk on the moon was a hoax or that Elvis Presley is still rocking somewhere in Memphis Tennessee.

There is however a category of bridge player whose members still believe that computer dealing delivers 'ridiculous' distributions and that North/South always get the better hands.

In an attempt to reassure these people I persuaded my computer using Dealmaster Pro to deal and analyse 10,000 (10,031 actually) hands and do you know what? They are correct! N/S got an average of 20.02 points per hand whereas E/W got a paltry 19.98. So it's true! N/S get better hands by an average of 0.04 points per hand over 10,031 deals!

As for distribution, the variance from that mathematically calculated for all possible distributions was 0.21%. About 70% of hands fall into the 5 most frequent patterns, (4432,5332,5431,5422,4333 in that order) meaning that about 30% of the time, or on about one hand in three, a distribution other than those listed should be expected.

So there really is no need to rush for a N/S seat to get better hands and perhaps it is fun to play truly random hands which do not sit happily with regular 1NT-Pass-Pass-Pass bridge.

## **Solution to March Problem**

West's club lead (as good as any) is taken by the ace. Diamonds are finessed, and declarer arranges to win five diamond tricks and the two top hearts irrespective of West's choice of plays. When North's last diamond is played off and another spade is discarded from south, West is caught in a "strategy squeeze". He wants to keep a long club if possible but discarding down to a singleton ace of spades would be fatal, so another club must go away. Now declarer plays a club to the king and then when the club jack is led to the queen East is squeezed. Being forced to guard hearts, a spade discard allows declarer to set up the spade ten for the slam-going trick.

Correct solutions received from Michael Whittaker, Andy Ridgers and John Gibbs who wins the £10 having been chosen at random from the above.

## **APRIL QUIZ**

Q2

K543

AK10853

A

10864

75

108

QJ92

72

QJ94

KQJ83

965

AKJ93

A76

6

10742

South to make 6S

Opening lead KC

Answers to: [scbanewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:scbanewsletter@gmail.com) by 20/05/18

**And Finally:**

Of course extreme good manners can be risky!



"AFTER YOU", SAID MISS MANNERS.  
"OH, YOU FIRST" INSISTED MRS. ETIQUETTE.