



November 2018 Newsletter



UPCOMING EVENTS

Andrew Robson at The Webbington Hotel on

Wednesday 5th December 2018 10.30 – 5.30

Four fascinating topics:

After 1NT – Stayman, Transfers, Landy Defence

Bidding Bad Hands when they become rather good

Finding Good Opening Leads based on opposing bidding

Fourth Suit Forcing

Cost: £40.00 or £25.00 for 1 session

(Includes Lunch plus Tea & Coffee & Prize Raffle)



For all details please go to www.bridgewebs.com/somerset

December 8th Mens and Ladies Pairs at 1pm at Woolavington

(More entries especially from the men would be very welcome.)

December 14th County League 4 at 7.15pm at Woolavington

BB@B

Courteous behaviour to the opposition and one's partner is a vital part of an enjoyable event and the SCBA is committed to this principle. Even though.....

“Admittedly the supply of poor partners greatly exceeds the demand.”
Victor Mollo

Recent Results and Events

Glyn Meredith and Jo Copping won the Championship Pairs at the Senior Congress held in Gloucester.



A new event – the **Ranked Masters Pairs** – was held on October 28th. Entries were less than hoped for so adaptations to the format were made on the day and the top category was cancelled

There were joint winners:



Sue Hornsby and Stuart Pratt



Steve Fletcher and Grant Weston

The Inter Club Pairs was held on November 4th. There were 3 sections, ably directed by Caroline MacPherson. The third section was for non-affiliated clubs who appeared to enjoy the experience very much. The other two sections were the Open and Restricted. The winners were:



Sheena Lanham and

Simon Brooke and

Stephen and Jackie

Andy Ridgers (Open)

Katrina Foote (Restricted) Banks (Non-Affiliated)

Seminar on 21st October

Caroline McPherson produced and delivered an excellent seminar — three separate sessions to about 40 of us. Her challenge is a big one. She has to address an audience whose experience and learning range from nervous novice to accomplished know-it-all. Quite how she carries this off is a mystery to me. On the other hand, I got to grips with half a dozen key points that are no longer a mystery to me.

(There will be another seminar in February – details in next newsletter)

Important Announcement

County Development Officer (more details in Chairman's Blog below)

We are looking for a highly motivated and organised individual with exceptional communication skills who is passionate about bridge and the future of the game to lead an EBU membership campaign in Somerset. For further information about the role and how to apply please contact scbachair@icloud.com. The closing date for applications is November 30th.

Random Quote:

Club of the Month – Frome

When I joined Frome Bridge Club in 1985, it was a thriving establishment, meeting three times a week, playing both duplicate and rubber bridge. Over the next 27 years the club moved premises several times, changed to playing once a week, and declined drastically, so that by 2012 the club met once a week to play duplicate, and sometimes only 8 and occasionally only 6 people attended. It seemed as if the next step would be closure.

Towards the end of that year, John Perry and I decided to try and do something about this decline. We'd heard that the best way of getting new members to a club was to offer teaching. It was clear the majority of people interested in taking up bridge would be retired, and that they'd have time available during the day. We settled on teaching on a Thursday morning and have been doing so ever since.



The result has been so worthwhile that at times we can hardly believe it! We've been helped by having premises which mean we can teach different classes at the same time; we've been helped by having a colleague willing to keep running new classes for beginners. But most of all we've been helped by the immense goodwill of the people who've come to the classes and to play the assisted duplicate bridge which follows. What's been wonderful has been that, very gradually, the Thursday morning club members have been finding the courage to come on a Monday evening, so that now we regularly get 7 tables on a Monday night – and sometimes 9 or even 10. And on Thursday mornings we usually have 12 tables, as well as

perhaps 10 beginners in another room. And I think everyone would agree that the atmosphere on both Monday nights and Thursday mornings is friendly and positive. The club meets at Wesley Chapel, 9:15 a.m. on Thursdays, and 7:00 p.m. on Mondays – you need to come with a partner on Mondays, but on Thursdays you can just turn up.

Marianne Lewin, Frome Bridge Club

November Quiz

South to make 6S, Opening lead KH. Solution later in the newsletter

S 6 4 3
H —
D 10 6 5 4 3 2
C 8 4 3 2

S —
H K Q J 10 8 5 4 3 2
D Q J
C K Q

S Q 10 8 7
H A 9 8 7
D 9 8 7
C 10 9

S A K J 9 5 2
H ---
D A K
C A J 7 6 5

Chairman's Blog #3

For some time now the EBU has been concerned about the static level of membership in their clubs. The average age of members is increasing and most bridge club members are above retirement age. This is certainly the case in Somerset and research that I have undertaken reveals that few of our EBU clubs are replenishing their membership at a rate necessary to even maintain the status quo.

We have all been in conversations which comment on the demographic of our players and jokingly remark that it would be nice to have some young players meaning under 65! Perhaps you could stop and think how many

members of your club are no longer playing regularly for various reasons and then how many new members your club has registered during the past twelve months. If the first number is greater than the second then your club has a potential problem.

The EBU has launched a membership campaign following a successful trial in Yorkshire and we in Somerset have decided to join because we realise that we as a county constituent of the EBU have a duty to assist any of our clubs who would welcome support.

I don't believe that we can afford to ignore the fact that some of our clubs are failing and others will follow in due course. The main component of our plan is to work closely with and through our clubs and to offer support to clubs who are keen and willing to work with us to launch individual membership campaigns and to improve the regularity of attendance from existing members.

This is too big a job for anyone to do in their spare time and so your committee has decided to invest in a club development officer whose main responsibilities will be:

To persuade "at risk" clubs to join with the SCBA in this Development Programme.

To support those clubs joining the programme.

To increase Club Membership in "at risk" clubs

To increase SCBA Membership

To promote the benefits of Bridge

To increase the regularity with which Primary Club Members play.

To raise the profile of bridge in Somerset.

Currently this opportunity is being advertised on the SCBA web page and when our C.D.O. is appointed we shall hold a meeting of clubs to launch the scheme. In the meantime please get in touch for more information or a chat about what is proposed. We are really looking forward to working with those clubs that wish to be involved.

November Quiz Solution

The heart lead is ruffed low in both hands! A spade is led, covering East's card.

Declarer now cashes the ♦A-K, then plays ace and a club.

The forced heart return again is ruffed in both hands, keeping the lead in dummy.

Declarer now runs dummy's diamonds, discarding clubs. Whenever east ruffs, south overruffs and draws the trumps.

And Finally:

If anyone has any contributions, suggestions or opinions then please email the editor: joan.pooley@sky.com

