



DECEMBER 2018 Newsletter



UPCOMING EVENTS

January 6th Swiss Pairs at Woolavington at 1pm

January 11th County League 5 at Woolavington at 7.15 pm

January 20th Interclub Teams at Woolavington at 1pm

January 25th County League 6 at Woolavington at 7.15 pm

Also on **Feb 16th** Caroline Macpherson is offering a seminar on

'Bidding with a Fit' at Ring O'Bells 4 St. Mary's Grove, Nailsea, BS48 4NQ. The seminar runs from 9.45 to 4pm.

Teaching will be via playing hands rather than lecture style – full notes & hand records with comments will be available. No charge but please email your intention to attend sbaed18@gmail.com so that we can arrange the correct number of tables & handouts.

Competition Entry

In order to enable the smooth running of county events; for competitions held on Saturdays entries must be made by the preceding Monday and for Sunday events entries must be made by the preceding Tuesday. If you miss the deadline please contact the director to see if a late entry is permissible.

BB@B

As always at competitions, good behaviour is expected from all.

“Do not believe in, or talk about luck. Of course you may have bad luck for weeks or even months on end. But if you regularly lose, you are not the unluckiest player at the table; he is your partner.” Edward Mayer (bridge correspondent of The Times)

Recent Results

November 25th Swiss teams was won jointly by Tom Gibbard and David Porter and John Cockram and Martin Holcombe – sadly no photo – and David and Gina Howard, Graham Heal and Colin Juneman



December 8th Ladies' Pairs

Men's Pairs



Rachel Brown and Marianne Lewin Roger sweet and Colin Juneman

Tollemache Report from Steve Tomlinson

Somerset competed in the Tollemache qualifier in a venue near Coventry. We played in (easily) the strongest group, including London, Manchester and Middlesex (seeds and previous overall winners) and although we beat all these teams, we unfortunately failed to qualify for the final.

I personally had a great time, getting to know the team better, meeting old friends and playing with a wonderful partner.

The whole team would like to express its thanks to Eric Cummings for the magnificent job he did as captain, despite the fact that he was actually playing much of the time. His organization, travel planning, ferrying the team around and sheer hard work were outstanding. He was an inspiration and the whole team wishes to thank him and we all hope that he continues in the role as captain. The team showed its appreciation by buying Eric a bottle of his favourite whiskey and a card, signed by the team.

News from New Zealand

Some of you will remember Ernie Sutton who played in Somerset for many years. He remains in touch despite his move to New Zealand. When he read about Glyn's win in the Senior Congress (reported last month) he emailed me with news of his own win in New Zealand's Senior Pairs at the National Congress in a field of 70 pairs. At my request he sent a photo.



The Michael Coda Cup – February 4-8 2019

The SCBA runs a charity simultaneous pairs event every year, in which both our affiliated and our non-affiliated clubs are eligible to participate. It is called the Michael Coda Cup, in honour of Michael Coda, a member of yesteryear who was our Hon. Treasurer for about 10 years in the 1980's and 1990's. This season, it will take place on 4 to 8 February 2019, and is run at the participating clubs on their normal club night. All participating clubs play the same set of boards, and at the end of the week, the event is scored across the whole field. This year's charity is the Penny Brohn Cancer Support – Living Well with Cancer, which is based in Pill near Bristol. As not all clubs participate, those who do so are expected to welcome outsiders to their heat. You can only play the event once during the week, so it is not worth holding the event if members of your club also play at another one who already participates.

If you decide to enter, you will be provided with either a pgn file for a dealing machine, a set of boards, or a sheet of hands which someone at your club who is not playing can deal beforehand. The boards are picked up at the January County League, and returned at the February County League.

The cost of entry is £2, all of which goes to charity, and there are prizes for 9 pairs. Your club might charge your normal table money on top of this. The prizes go to the first four places, the highest placed pair ranked below Tournament Master, the highest placed pair ranked below Advanced Master, the highest placed pair ranked below Club Master, the highest placed non-SCBA pair, and the pair coming in 77th position. Prizes are bottles of wine, and will be presented at the AGM in May.

Participating clubs last year were:-

Monday – Langport, Coxley (2 heats), Frome

Tuesday – Minehead, Wilton

Wednesday – Backwell, Taunton, Clevedon, Street

Thursday – Cross, Cannington

Friday – Winscombe

If your club wishes to enter, please email ginahoward@btinternet.com specifying how you wish to receive the boards.

This Month's Quiz – solution later in newsletter

The Whitfield Eight

by William Whitfield

| | | | |
|---|---------|--|-----------|
| ♠ | 7 4 3 2 | | |
| ♥ | 7 4 | | |
| ♦ | 7 4 | | |
| ♣ | — | | |
| ♠ | — | | ♠ — |
| ♥ | K J 8 | | ♥ Q 9 |
| ♦ | K J 8 | | ♦ Q 9 |
| ♣ | K J | | ♣ Q 9 5 4 |
| | | | |
| ♠ | — | | |
| ♥ | A 6 | | |
| ♦ | A 6 | | |
| ♣ | A 8 7 6 | | |

Spades are trumps. South to lead and win all the tricks.

Chairman's Blog #4

The first half of our season has flashed by and it's Christmas already. It's been a very busy time since the Barometer Pairs back in July, our first event of the season. Since then we have staged another very successful congress at the Winter Gardens in addition to our usual events that have been increasingly well supported which is very encouraging. We have also had the Caroline Macpherson seminar at Street and of course Andrew Robson at the Webbington Hotel.

The county teams have performed well in the Western League and all remain competitive in their respective divisions.

2018 has seen the start of our Fast Forward to Bridge programme for which you will remember we were awarded a Lottery grant in 2017. The first course was held during the summer of 2018 and already course members are integrated and playing at Sherborne and Castle Cary Bridge clubs. A second course based at Street is almost completed with similar positive results. It's been fantastic to see raw beginners taking part in club life so quickly and I am proud of what has been

achieved. A third course starts in the New Year at Weston and a fourth is planned based on Taunton Bridge Club.

In 2019 we shall be launching our EBU membership campaign. We have appointed a membership development officer and will be launching this programme during January. More of this later.

In the meantime on behalf of the SCBA committee and myself may I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a New Year of successful and enjoyable bridge wherever you choose to play.

Tony

Club of the Month - Langport

For this article I am indebted to the recollections of John Gibbs, Les Botting and Don Darby and the photo of Lundie Rees from David Shephard.

From John Gibbs:

I can't claim to be the oldest surviving member of the Langport Bridge Club (that honour would, I think, go to Don Darby) but I'm pretty sure that I am the earliest. My wife and I moved to Sherborne in 1970 and, having contacted Nora Williams, who put me in touch with Bob Warrender, I started playing in Yeovil where I met Peter Tingle. As a result of that partnership I went to Langport where Lundie Rees ran his bridge club in the Langport Arms. I was immediately taken with the friendly and welcoming atmosphere and became a regular. Lundie always stood spare so you could go along and always be sure of a game. Terry Girdlestone, Jackie Waters, Russell Day and Bill Rowe are regulars that I remember from those days.

We subsequently moved to the skittle alley at the Black Swan just round the corner where good regular attendances were maintained. After that we moved to the church hall at Huish Episcopi. Lundie's club was always a proprietor's club but he didn't run it for profit; he ran it because he loved the game and wanted other people to enjoy it too. His wife Mary didn't play but was always there to collect the table money and start entering the scores as the travellers came out. If you turned up without a partner Lundie would get you to draw cards. He was very good at manipulation and I think that it was because of this that I played one evening with Colin Juneman which proved to be the start of a long, enjoyable and very successful partnership. Langport has always

accommodated a very wide range of bridge playing abilities and that continues to this day. During our time at Huish Episcopi I can remember visits from Jane Preddy nad her daughter Kay, and Roman Smolski.

Lundie was also responsible for introducing me to Jackie. He asked if I would make up a team to play in the Burnham Sunday evening teams event which we won, he playing with Eric Heaps. As a result of this Jackie and I won the County Mixed Pairs two years running, and that in the day before Avon had split off !

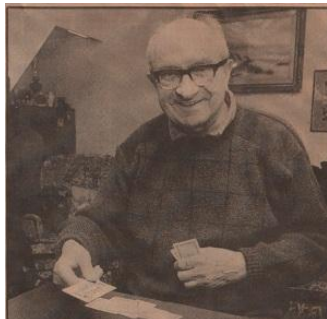


How they used to look!

From Les Botting:

I joined in January 1974 so John's memories are earlier than mine though pretty much what he has said was still the case when I joined. What is interesting is that John, Jackie, Bill, Colin Juneman, Colin Powell, Russell Day, the Belchers, Mike Purse and myself were all in our late 20's to 30's. There were some other younger players who came and went. Very different to today! As John said the fact that Lundie provided a spare partner attracted a lot of people from all over the County. The club quickly became probably the strongest club outside of Bristol. We regularly won County Team events; the Teams of Eight and many pairs events were won by John, Jackie, Colin, Terry Girdlestone, and Bill Rowe, the Howards and the Belchers when they were members (on and off over many years) and a bit later Caroline and Terry's protégé Graham Heal. I was Lundie's regular partner for about 15 years until he died in 1992. We twice won the regional finals of team events sponsored by Tobacco companies and went to London (all expenses paid) for a weekend final. We didn't win but had a great time. John and I have a photo of Colin and John with Lundie and me being presented with Carriage Clocks by Jeremy Flint. (see above)

After Lundie died Bert Ginnever took over running the club, which he did for a



few years until he decided to give it up. I took over the job and did it almost single handed for many years.

During this period we had stopped doing the spare partner because just about everybody came from some distance except me. This may have been the factor in the club numbers dropping but I feel it had more to do with our reputation as a strong club (Most of the County's top players were playing at Langport)

and being too intimidating for less experienced players (and to be honest I thought we had a couple of players who could be quite rude at times). This was sad in a way because Lundie himself had gone out of his way to make it a friendly club. *(Your editor is the secretary of Langport and can vouch that it is now a welcoming and friendly club)* However we recovered and started achieving our highest table numbers ever. In summary, the club owes everything to Lundie and Mary Rees who founded it and set the ethos.

Subsequently the major players who tried to maintain this were Bert Ginnever (for about 5 Years) myself (for over 20 years) and now in the last few years we have spread the work load to Caroline, Joan and Alan Atkinson with me doing much less. We have, I think, successfully managed to keep the club friendly, not officious with formal meetings etc., whilst accommodating a large number of the best players in the County. I can only recall at most a couple of occasions when there has been any real unpleasantness at the club in over 44 years. I genuinely believe Langport Bridge Club members have won more trophies than any other club in the County since we split from Bristol. This is just boasting and I haven't done a detailed analysis!

From Don Darby:

I commenced playing very early in the club's history with my brother Dick who sadly is long gone. Being disabled as a result of WWII he was often brought to the club by Colin Juneman. Brian Corbett with whom I played bridge with for over fifty years is now in a care home in Yeovil. Brian has great difficulty in walking and can no longer make the journey to Langport but still plays.

Once a year the club holds a competition in memory of Lundie Rees (our founder) to which all, members and non members alike are welcome. We draw for partners on the evening and play a one winner movement. There is always a spare for the evening so why not pay us a visit? In 2019 it will be held on March 18th.

Quiz Solution

South trumps a club then leads a spade. East must keep all his clubs to prevent establishment of declarer's long card; so he discards a red suit, say hearts. South also sheds a heart then plays a heart to the ace. The ♠A is cashed, discarding a diamond from dummy, and a club is ruffed. Now the lead of dummy's last spade effects a double squeeze; east must guard clubs and west must guard hearts, so neither opponent can guard diamonds.

Trap: cashing the ♠A early would compel a premature commitment from dummy. East would hold onto the same red suit as the dummy and the squeeze would evaporate.



Formatted: Font: (Default) +Body, 16 pt, Bold, Font color: Red