

SOMERSET CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

March 2018



Upcoming Events

- 30/03 Second round of the Pairs League at Cossington
- 04/04 Third round of the Pairs League at Cossington
- 13/04 Fourth round of the Pairs League at Cossington
- 14-15/04 Bruton Bridge Weekend
- 21/04 Western League against Devon at Cossington
- 27/04 Final matches of County League at Woolavington
- 29/04 Percentage Final at Woolavington

All Somerset County Events are **BB@B** events. This means that we aim to follow the standards of behaviour detailed by the EBU. Treating one's partner with courtesy and understanding is a vital part of this. Stamford Bridge Academy who teach very young pupils stressed that good behaviour be introduced from the very beginning. At his seminar Paul Bowyer also emphasised the importance of this. After all you don't want your partner to echo Groucho Marx –

“I've had a perfectly wonderful evening. I'm afraid this wasn't it”

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

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.

Recent results and Events

The **CHAMPIONSHIP PAIRS** was held at Woolavington on February 17th. 32 pairs contested the qualifying event, 14 pairs made it through to the final and 16 pairs fought for the plate.



Overall Winners:

Barbara Biggins and Anne Skinner



Plate Winners:

Grant Weston and Steve Fletcher

TEAMS OF EIGHT

This event took place on March 10th at Woolavington and despite some eccentric instructions from the director proceeded in an orderly manner. The event was won comfortably by the Taunton team of Colin Flood, Sheila Coda, Alan & Jette Bailey, Richard Feetenby & Sally Stuttard and Roger Sweet & Jackie Waters. Langport were second with Wells getting the bronze medal. Alan & Jette Bailey were top of the ximps (comparison imps- I had to ask!) and a special mention to Robert and Lou Hobhouse who were the second best pair on the day and to David Lambert who in his first ever county competition was fourth in the ximps playing with John Cockram.

Colin Juneman and Caroline Macpherson were one of only 3 pairs to bid 7S on this hand:

| East (Dealer) | West |
|---------------|-------|
| Q107 | AK942 |
| Q3 | AK102 |
| Q9 | A2 |
| AKJ976 | 102 |

Their sequence

1S-2C

2H-3D (FSF)

4D (extra strength)-4S

4NT(RKCB)-5C (1 key card)

5D-6C (trump queen + club king)

7S

Colin claims that it was slightly borderline as a grand slam requiring a 3-2 trump break and clubs cooperating but "it was very satisfying to bid it though slightly wasted in IMP terms because they didn't bid a slam at all at the other table". The winning team go on to represent Somerset in the regional finals of the Garden Cities Trophy and they travel with our best wishes.



COUNTY LEAGUE

This season's county league is reaching its conclusion with only one round of matches to go. In the first division the most important match was that between the top two teams led by Roger Sweet and Les Botting which resulted in a big win for the Sweet team who are champions with one match to go. At the other end of the table things look gloomy for Alan Atkinson's Langport team and Sheena Lanham's team from Wells have a big job on their hands in the final match against the champions to avoid relegation.

In the second division Julian Brown's Taunton team will be promoted possibly with Lou Hobhouse's team from Langport who play the league leaders in their final match or Frome (John Perry) who need a big win against Wedmore. Wilton (Tony Morgan) will be relegated for sure with either Wells (Paul St. Quintin) or Wedmore (Bob Jepps).

Alan Dean's Street team are champions of Division 3 with a match to go but the second promotion place will be hotly contested by Castle Cary (Belinda Simpson) on 91 points and Cossington (Belinda Cox) on 89.

The final round of fixtures will be played on April 27th.

EBED EVENT

EBED Student Simultaneous Pairs

Nearly 60 bridge students took part in the EBED Student Sims in mid-March. A few had already tried duplicate at Castle Cary and Langport Bridge Clubs, but most were seeing how it works for the first time. The results are passed to EBED who combine them with students from across the country to get a national result. Last year some 770 students took part in England, and it is expected to be bigger this year. We have high hopes that Marie Jackson and Julian de Bosdari will come close to the top in the national final results after scoring a cracking 80%. Lou Hobhouse organised the event which cost £1 per person plus a donation to Dementia UK. Some £250 was raised through generous contributions. Tony Russ and Alan Atkinson kindly helped at the event, dealing, scoring and directing. Any student groups can join in the tournament which has to be played by the end of March. Look on the EBED website for more details.

Pairs League 2018

The first round of this competition was held on Thursday 22nd March. This year there are 13 tables comprising 4 divisions. Several people were misled by satnavs and arrived late but all the boards were played with varying success.



The Michael Coda Cup

Somerset Bridge Association helps improve Burnham Area Youth Centre

Burnham's BAY Centre has just received a wonderful gift from Sheila Coda, a member of Somerset Bridge Association.

Last year Sheila, who is able to choose which charities to support, on behalf of the association, elected to share the charity donation between the BAY centre and the Devon and Somerset Air ambulance. The result was the presentation, last week, of a cheque for £800 to Jan Bonus, the BAY Centre secretary.

BAY Centre Chair Mike Lang was delighted, saying, "Our trustees committee has a policy of constant improvement, and this excellent gift will help us shake off the sands of time in our fifty two year-old-building.

We will ensure that this donation is used effectively on doing something specific."

Club of the Month – Castle Cary

Castle Cary Bridge Club was set up in 2002 by a group of players who wanted to enjoy friendly competitive bridge locally. It proved so successful that a club was formed and soon they had financed all their own equipment. Many of those founding members are still stalwarts of the club today including the founding chairman, Michael Millican.

The emphasis of the club still is to welcome and encourage both experienced players and newcomers to duplicate bridge. We have been pleased recently to welcome several new members and usually field at least six tables. We are fortunate to be able to use computer dealt hands, making it possible for players to review and improve their bidding and card play. We were also able to purchase second-hand Bridgemates.

We have a team involved in the county league at Woolavington and several of our members have enjoyed the coffee shop tutorials in various locations. Hopefully, as we gain in confidence, some of our members will enter other county events. Our latest venture is to join with Sherborne and Yeovil Bridge clubs in running Fast Track Bridge days in May. We hope that this will be well supported and will bring new members to all three clubs.

NO MORE POLYSTYRENE CUPS

As you may know it has been decided that we will no longer use disposable cups at evening events, as these cannot be recycled. So if you want a drink then you must bring your own cup or mug.

Monkey Puzzle by Paul Burgess

Holiday bridge offers a respite from the serious stuff but occasionally a hand arrives that demands a little more attention. This is one from the Greek islands.

North deals and opens one club, the hand not being quite good enough for a two club opener, East overcalls with a weak three diamonds, south doubles to show the majors and West raises to five diamonds, leaving North wondering how he had no opportunity to show his hand....

This was the deal:

♠ K765 ♥ AKJ ♦ ♣ AKQ753

♠ AJ10 ♠ 4 ♥ 864 ♥ 753 ♦ Q108752 ♦ AKJ9643 ♣ 2 ♣ 64

♠ Q9832 ♥ Q1092 ♦ ♣ J1098

North settles for five spades with the ropiness of the suit consoling him in the thought that he might have missed a slam (he has a partner – she can always bid it if things are looking good). Pass, pass, pass and the contract makes on the nose. South looks at the lack of aces and kings and decides that she has contributed more than enough to the bidding.

Where is the story then?

Well, east -west were not very experienced players and did well to obfuscate the bidding as they did. What about if they were a little more practised? Would East think that NS were on their way to a slam and if so how would he prevent them from finding it.

Enter the monkey. Or more precisely the striped-tail ape. A double of five spades would probably have NS thinking that they could settle for the doubled game scoring 650 NV / 750 + 1 or 850 V / 1050 + 1 rather than risking a minus on a slam, even though this would score 980/1430. If the bid were to be redoubled sending the scores up to 1000/1200 NV and 1200 / 1600 V, East, striped tail bobbing in the breeze, would run away to six diamonds and take the double in the hope that they could get out for less than the NS slam would score (in this case a very nice 3 off which, with favourable vulnerability, would work well).

East of course was not to know how thin the spade suit was nor that partner was sitting with a likely two spade tricks. Which meant that West was looking at a hand that indicated that five spades (doubled) was going to make but that the slam would not. The striped-tail ape double was going to back fire on this one. Now West had to take the double out into six diamonds and hope that NS would take a shot at the slam rather than double (no chance).

The puzzle is of course how to get NS to bid that hopeless slam and we can see that the crucial bid is the five diamonds giving the chance for NS to find the last playable contract. If West bids six diamonds straight away will that be enough to jostle NS into the (off) slam? The answer to that is lost (like the striped-tail ape) in the jungle.

For me, the moral of the story would be that when you have hold of a striped tail then be careful as it is as likely to be that of a tiger as an ape.

One to mull over on the beach with a banana (daiquiri).

This item was contributed by a member. The editor welcomes comments, stories and suggestions from members and hopes these too will reflect BB@B

The Quiz

The February quiz received several entries.

Solution to February Quiz

Contract 6H by South

Lead

KC

North

South

S 7 6 5

S A Q 8

H 9 8 7 6 5

H A K Q J 10

D K Q 3

D A 10 6 4

C 10 3

C A

Only one plan will ensure success. Draw trumps in three rounds if necessary. Cross to KD and ruff the remaining club. Next cross to QD and lead dummy's last diamond. Then:

If East shows out win the Ace and lead the 10 to West pitching a spade from dummy. If East follows finesse the 10; either it will win or it will lose to West's Jxx. In either scenario if West gets the lead he is endplayed, forced to lead into your AQ or give you a ruff and discard.

West held: K 9 4 2; H 4; D 7 5; C K Q 8 7 6 2

Congratulations to Mike Whittaker, Roger Sweet and Alan Dean for sending in correct answers and thanks to the others who were nearly correct.

In future the winning entry will be selected at random. The winner will receive £10.

March Play Problem:

NORTH

8

K93

A109876

Q109

WEST

A96

J7

K5

865432

EAST

QJ3

Q108642

432

7

SOUTH

K107542

A5

QJ

AKJ

South to make 6NT against any defence assuming a club lead which is as good as any.

Solutions to scbanewsletter@gmail.com by 20/04/18

Finally:

We had a partnership misunderstanding. My partner assumed I knew what I was doing.

