

# SOMERSET CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

September 2018



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> September West of England Congress at Weston super Mare

12/10/18 **County League 2** at Woolavington at 7.15

28/10/18 **Ranked Masters Pairs** at Woolavington at 1 pm

*(A new event with pairs competing in ranked sections. There will be a category for less experienced players.)*

13/10/18 **An introduction to Club Directing** 09:30 - 12:45 This is a half day course covering the most common problems faced by the Club Director. It includes insufficient bids, calls out of rotation, comparable calls and opening lead out of rotation. Most of the time will be spent doing table simulations. You will need to bring your own copy of the Law Book. Held at Woolavington Village Hall. For further information and to book a place, please contact Frank Coltman at: [gina\\_frank@sky.com](mailto:gina_frank@sky.com).

Also on that day 13:15 - 16:30 **An introduction to EBU Score Pairs -**

This is a half day course covering the basics of scoring a single session of duplicate pairs using the 'EBU Score Pairs' software. Most of the time will be

spent doing scoring exercises, and therefore you will need to bring a laptop or other suitable computer, plus some form of table top scoring unit (eg Bridgemates). It will be held at Woolavington Village Hall.

For further information and to book a place, please contact Colin Simcox at:

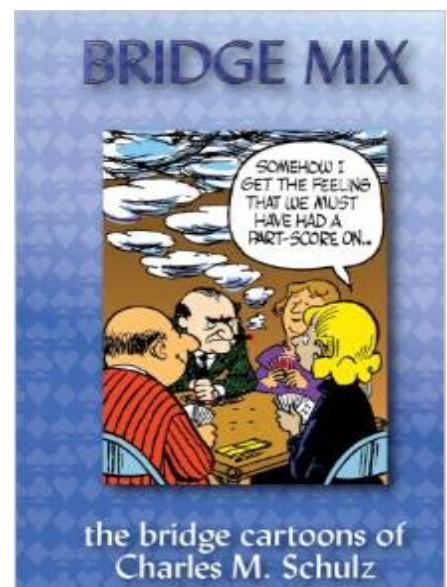
[simcox@orchard-view.co.uk](mailto:simcox@orchard-view.co.uk).

**21/10/18 Seminar in Street with Caroline Macpherson** A free event promoted by the SCBA for the benefit of all bridge players. All details are on the SCBA website. You do need to book.

## **BB@B**

The SCBA wishes to remind you that good behaviour is expected by all. This includes correct table etiquette.

No reaction to bids, results etc. This also excludes recriminations and gloating. And remember not to touch the bidding box until you are ready to select your bid – do not fiddle!



## **RECENT RESULTS**

### **AGM report**

**Congratulations to the winners of the AGM Swiss Teams.**

**They were:- Wendy Miller, Sheila Coda, Margaret Adams & Naomi Molton.**

**I would like to also encourage those Club Directors who would like to improve their skill to shadow a Director at a County event. Please contact me to register your interest, County event dates can be found on the web site.**

**Also I am happy to receive suggestions about ways to improve events. Please contact me; my details are on the County website.**

**Frank Coltman**



**The Barometer Pairs on 29/07/18 was won by  
Ralph Smith and Steve Tomlinson**

**The winners of the Paul Jones event on 12/08/18 and the Mixed teams held on  
22/09/18 were Ceri Pierce, Eric Cummings, Jette Bailey and Alan Bailey**



**The winners of the Mixed Pairs held on 02/09/18 were Jette and Alan Bailey**



The Chairman, Tony Russ has produced a second blog (the first was on the website)

## **Chairman's Blog #2**

It's early September and already the season is well under way. We have had the Barometer Pairs, the Paul Jones and the Mixed pairs, all were well attended especially the mixed pairs with a magnificent 17 tables. Publicising our events and reassuring newer players that these events are fun and not at all intimidating is a real focus for us this year and its very rewarding to see new players give it a go, enjoy it and return for more.

I was reminded of this when I heard Jonathan Agnew say how many people had gone to the final test of the Summer at the Oval just to be there to see Alastair Cook's final game and enjoyed it so much that they intend to return. I am sure those who try one of our events for the first time will wish to return for more.

The SCBA continues to offer support to our clubs and players and there are several events to note for your diary. We have a day for directors and, for the first time, scorers and a day of playing seminars from Caroline Macpherson. Details are on the web site. Many of you will want to make a note of the date of Andrew Robson's visit on December 5<sup>th</sup>. Details are on the SCBA website.

Our first Fast Forward to bridge course is already well advanced. This is the course run by the consortium of Sherborne, Castle Cary and Yeovil and already new players are testing the water at two of these bridge clubs. A second course started in Street on September 15<sup>th</sup> and you can read about this elsewhere in this newsletter.

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## **Fast Forward Bridge Weekend at Street Bridge Club 15 & 16 September**

After all the preparations, 11 hopeful participants started on the Saturday morning. Within fifteen minutes they were playing their first impromptu hand of mini bridge to begin the basics of clockwise movements, counting high points & experiencing the role of declarer, dummy & who's on lead. The language & mechanics progressed through the morning and by mid-afternoon they were playing the set boards with 1NT opening bids & 2NT &

**3NT responses. A supper break at The King Alfred allowed time to chat and relax before returning for an 8 board, 4 table Skip Mitchell duplicate session which was scored by Ian Williamson. The Street Bridge Club team of helpers made up the numbers so guidance, assistance & support were available at every table. It was a long day & positive day for everyone with frequent breaks for refreshments.**

**Sunday morning and we were all ready for the day ahead; everyone returned and we started with a quick overview of what had been learnt on the Saturday with a contribution from everyone. It was remarkable that they had, as a group, retained & consolidated so much of the basic information including scoring. With the emphasis on play, experiential learning, with support at each table, the final set of the 40 boards were played. We finished the day with a 3 table 'see what you remember' session of 4 boards from Saturday evening with each player in a different position.**

**I didn't prepare a formal exit survey for the group – I have been on too many training days that present this for completion before you leave, but as the 10 who completed the weekend were all smiling and agreeing that they will sign up for the follow on classes. The consensus of the group was that they had learnt a lot in a very short time & were keen to continue their journey. Yes, they were exhausted but exhilarated; they had met new people & had explored an intellectual stimulus in a social, supportive & happy atmosphere.**

**The old adages of t KISS: 'Keep it Simple, Stupid' & 'Fail to Plan, Plan to Fail' plus the Count, Plan & Play strategy helped the learners to establish good habits from the beginning. At the end, they were becoming confident in basic etiquette, declarer & defence play with the added essential that it is a partnership game where communication is the key whether in bidding or in card play.**

**Only time will now tell how successful the weekend really was, but the future is encouraging and positive.**

**My thanks go to Ceri, Caroline & Steve for help in the initial preparations & to my team of Ian, Carol, Gill, Gordon Sheena, Gaye & Angela who all helped with their time at the weekend.**

**On Wednesday 18, 8 players returned & the missing 2 are planning to come & continue when they are available!**

## **Cheddar – Club of the Month**

**Cheddar is a village in Somerset best known for its Gorge, Caves and eponymous cheese. Our small, friendly club meets every Wednesday at 7.00pm in the Catholic Church Hall, Tweentown.**

**We usually have 6-10 tables except during the World Cup when we still have a team in!!**

**We have been going about 35 years. It was started by Brian Lewis and met originally at the Wishing Well café in the Gorge. We moved to the current venue around 8 years later when we outgrew the café.**

**We began playing rubber bridge then the technology arrived with Joan Libby and Nick Nichols scoring on the up-to-the-minute Amstrad computer. Nowadays we are a bit more sophisticated with computer dealt hands, scoring tablets and results before we go home.**

**One of our members has been running a very popular learners group during the winter months. Some of the new players are graduating to the main club.**

**So come and join us whether as a visitor or a new member, all are welcome. Contact details are on our website.**



## QUIZ OF THE MONTH

| North      | South   |
|------------|---------|
| Q          | K x x   |
| K Q 8 X    | A 9 x x |
| Q J 10 x x | A 9 8   |
| 10 9 x     | J x x   |

Bidding: E/W vulnerable

| South | West | North | East |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| 1NT   | P    | 2C*   | 2S   |
| x     | x    | 3D    | x    |
| 3H    | End  |       |      |

West leads a low spade won with the Ace by East who returns a low club.

West takes the Q and A of clubs and returns a club to East's King. East leads a spade which South wins with the King and West follows with a higher spade than he led at trick 1. You have lost four tricks already. How do you play from here and why?

£10 for a correct answer drawn from a hat but you must see Tony in person to claim your prize!

## And Finally:

I'm giving up bridge- tonight's my last night

It's amen to Stayman, I give up the fight.

The insults and muddles are giving me troubles

And I can't sleep at night for thinking of doubles.



**My cards are all rotten and I have forgotten  
Who's played and what's trumps and what's gone on my right!  
So for now it's all over- I'm off to the back wood  
I'm bidding good-bye to Gerber and Blackwood  
I can't stand the hassle, I can't stand the pain  
I'm getting those bad cards again and again.  
So I'm giving up bridge- tonight's a bad night.  
Declarer is horrid and nothing's going right.  
My partner's a dope and I'm losing all hope.  
And when she/he says "double" I know we're in trouble.  
My points are not high and I'm wondering why  
she/he kept on bidding right up to the sky.  
We're in seven spades and all my hope fades  
When surprise, surprise, the high bidding pays!  
We're winning all tricks, the defenders feel sick,  
And I have to admit my partner's a brick  
But I'm giving up bridge- tonight's my last night!  
Farewell to conventions- I give up the fight?  
So I leave with few words but some that are true,  
Bridge is a game- not for me but for you  
So be kind to your partners and don't mind their cheek.  
For it's only a game- Oh Yes! I'll see you next week**