

DORSET CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION-DCBA

WINTER 2022/23

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday 12th February	Garden Cities Qualifier (teams of 8)	Allendale Bridge Club
Sunday 19th March	Frost Rose bowl (Blue pointed)	*venue to be decided
Sunday 23rd April	Weymouth College Trophy	online
Sunday 7th May	Jack High	Moreton Village Hall
SUNDAY 21st MAY	AGM & UDALL TROPHY	HAMWORTHY CLUB

*we would be delighted if one of our clubs would offer to act as hosts for this blue pointed event or indeed any other future county events. Your contact at DCBA is Jacqueline Darts, Tournament Secretary on jacqueline@daviddarts.co.uk

RECENT COMPETITIONS

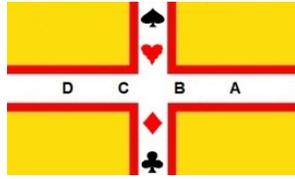
Our first competition in 2023 was for the **Knight & Simeon cups** at Hamworthy resulting in eight tables. The Knight cup was won by Janet and Kelly whilst the Simeon cup was won by Ian and Christine. This competition was open only to Dorset members and its top three winning pairs are eligible to go forward to play in the EBU's Corwen cup. Well done, you.

The recent green pointed Swiss pairs which was held online resulted in over a hundred pairs and was won by two Ivans, so many congratulations to them. Congratulations, also to Dorset locals, Ann Sharples and Chris Stevens who came 9th, a great result indeed.

NATIONAL PAIRS REGIONAL QUALIFIER– 26th MARCH

This has been much heralded and to earn a place in the qualifier, players need to have obtained over 55% in a club game held between the dates of 5th & 18th February. Dorset being part of the EBU South Western division has arranged to host participants on the real bridge platform. For those preferring BBO, turn to Somerset who are also acting as hosts. Cost of entry will be £10 per player.

The top 50 pairs will be entitled to play in the final on the realbridge platform on 15th-16th April.



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WINTER 2022/23 - ROGUES' GALLERY

KNIGHT CUP WINNERS

JANET SMITH & KELLY COURTNEY



SIMEON CUP WINNERS

IAN HULSE &

CHRISTINE EDWARDS

and.....NOT TO BE FORGOTTEN

WINNERS OF DORSET'S

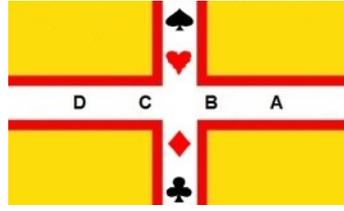
GREEN POINTED DORSET SWISS PAIRS

Ivan Lu and Ivan Leung



BEFORE AND
AFTER PLAY AT
WEYMOUTH'S
CHRISTMAS
PARTY





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NEWS FROM AROUND THE CLUBS

Our **own Committee** needs another member: Andy Kittridge is stepping down from his role as Membership Secretary at our forthcoming AGM in May. He has been Membership Secretary for some time now and has seen Dorset's membership flourish to over 600, no mean feat in such a rural area. He was instrumental in organising the Jack High and 9-high competitions, both of which are held on a person to person basis: the next Jack High being the 7th May in Moreton Village Hall. He will be a hard act to follow but we meet four times a year and need a refreshing member.

Weymouth club held its Christmas party on 15th December and, truly, it was a great success with good food and good cards, after which it took a break and re-started on 5th January. A couple of pictures of the carefree evening are shown above.

Bridport, who affiliated to the EBU last spring on a trial basis, held not one but two Christmas jollies. It also held its AGM in January with two very thought-provoking items on its Agenda: which was to decide whether to continue its affiliation to the EBU and to offer Open Days to encourage players back to bridge. I am very pleased to announce that the motion to continue as part of the EBU was carried as was the decision to have the Open Days. These dates will be 1st and 8th February for the evening bridge on Wednesday and 3rd and 10th February for the afternoon Friday bridge.

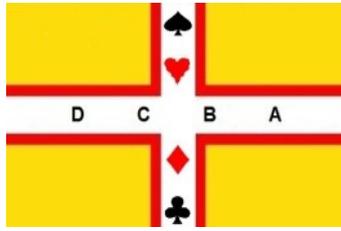
Newly elected in September, **Sherborne's** Chairman, Pip will be running a two-hour assisted play session on real bridge every Thursday commencing at 7pm. This is mainly for the benefit of her Year 2 course but anyone wishing to improve their bridge is welcome to attend. Full details for entry and payment are under the "Thursday Assisted Play Online" tab on left hand menu of its website.

Dorchester continues to play online each Monday evening and its A team has moved through to the third round of the NICKO after beating Torquay (last year's beaten finalists) by a massive 125-31. On a less cheery note, John Askew-a founder member of the club in 1959-passed away in December, whilst a second long-standing member, and avid congress player, Les Roffey, has had to give up his membership because of failing eyesight.

Shaftesbury continues on Monday evenings and/or Wednesday afternoons in the British Legion hall. Its table numbers are growing and it has entered the Garden Cities Qualifier, teams of eight.

At the eastern end of the County, the **Allendale Club** at Wimborne has very kindly agreed to host the Garden Cities Qualifier on Sunday 12th February and at present five teams of 8 have entered. The winning team will go forward to the Regional finals on 13th May and then hopefully to play in the National finals on 17th June both to be held at designated venues. Their next event will be for their Allendale trophy.

Christchurch, continues its sessions on Monday & Wednesday evenings and Thursday afternoons. It has found a venue at St Ambrose Church Hall, Westbourne for Friday afternoons; contact Peter Craven for further details



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BRAVING THE WORLD OF THE EBU'S COLOUR POINTED & NGS SYSTEMS contd

The National Grading Scheme (NGS) introduced in 2010 uses the results of every game played in an EBU affiliated club to rank players who are given a designation as in a suit of cards, from a two for beginners upwards to an Ace. Each band covers a 2% range of grade values with 8 having a range of 49-51%. As you improve, you hopefully move up the pack, but like the stock market you can go down as well as up.

For each partnership you play in, the NGS will also calculate a partnership grade, based on between 150 and 2000 boards played with that partner in the last three years. Some players may like to track this as well as their individual grade .

These grading systems are used not only by you to judge your own progression but also by event organisers to encourage less experienced players to enter. Yes, we all primarily play bridge for the enjoyment of the game but it can become disappointing not to get better results!

1. First, as above, an organiser might use the ranking system to restrict who can enter. A 9-high event means just that and means that those who enter have a good chance of winning, or at least doing better than they would if everyone could enter.
2. Secondly, an organiser might give a special prize for less experienced players, for example a prize for a partnership below 'Premier Master' would give a prize for the highest ranked pair who has not achieved the 'Premier Master' master point grade-see our article on the Autumn Newsletter.
3. Thirdly the NGS can be used as a handicap, rather as in many club golf tournaments. Just as a golf handicap is used to subtract from the number of shots it takes you to go round a course, the NGS can be used to add or subtract from the bridge percentage of your session. Organisers can then use this 'handicap' to level the playing field. By handicapping an event, the winner will be the pair who plays best relative to their own standard, in essence levelling the playing field so that everyone has an equal chance of winning. We used this handicapping for the first time for the Flemmich cup last October at Moreton and it was very successful, so we plan to use it more in the future.

All events run by the County use one of these mechanisms to encourage entries of less experienced players. All three methods are used in different events. If you don't understand the designation, don't be afraid to ask a more experienced player what it means. And remember the golden rule, whilst more experienced players are prevented from playing in lower level events, not so experienced players are never excluded from playing in higher level events.

Club organisers wanting help to utilise one of these mechanisms for their own events, are welcome to contact a member of the County committee for assistance on how this can be done in practice.