

Yes i know I said no more bulletins but have been asked to write a couple of paragraphs for the Somerset County Bridge website on how last night's F2F start at Ilminster went and naturally could not resist the temptation to add my own warped sense of humour to it so here goes 😊

" Last night some 26 gladiators (players) returned to the recently refurbished ( new flooring and lighting) Ilminster arena (Speke Hall) for a round of challenges. On entering the arena each was allocated their own weapon(bidding box) to use throughout. Some had not been seen for quite sometime while others had travelled to distant shores (BBO) to maintain their fitness (Bridge knowledge). An individual bout was held between two players (Mitchell and Howell) to decide who would be in charge. Mitchell was pleased to have won as this meant the gladiators ( players) would have less moving as some were known to be not as fit as they hoped 😊 and were put into 7 groups(boards). Refreshments (hand sanitiser) was available to all groups and all arena doors were left open to keep everyone awake ( fresh air circulating)

A format of 18 bouts ( boards) was agreed and play commenced at 7pm. Rumours abounded that this would be an easy event as the rules (boards) were set by Duplimate and not those cursed BBO people.

An early victory for Pantling and Harris ( two of those we had not seen for 17 months) in their first round saw them fall heavily in the second 😂 whilst another couple Heffill and Hubbard who had been honing their skills regularly (BBO) also made a good start. Both these pairs of warriors (one who had not played for 17 months and one who had played throughout) ultimately finishing runners up. What were the odds of that?

There was much jollity and chatter rarely seen at such bouts where seriousness is the norm but the MC was happy to let this go this week.

Some clearly tired early so refreshments (tea ,coffee and delicious biscuits) were allowed at half time and quickly demolished no doubt to improve stamina. Everything then followed the programme until it was time to leave. Last night's generous sponsors Jill,Stuart, Jeanne and Mike were given( volunteered)the task to clear all equipment( tables etc) so the players simply had to jump into their chariots (BMW,Jaguars and Mercedes 😂) and sample driving in the dark!! Getting back in time to see their results published in stone ( on the website)

We will have more fun and competition next week and invite any others to attend"