



SOMERSET CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION



Congress Newsletter

Congress 2020 September 26th – October 4th

An online extravaganza of Bridge
Events for the most experienced and the least experienced
Blue and **Green** point events

All events hosted on BridgeBaseOnline

First Weekend

Saturday 26th September

Open Pairs 1pm – 2 x 22 board sessions with a one hour break
BB\$10 per player paid at registration – advance entry not required.

Relaxed Pairs 2pm – 18 boards at an easy 8 minutes per board
BB\$5 per player paid at registration – advance entry not required.

Looking for a partner or team mates?

send details to Tony woe2020@icloud.com

Sunday 27th September

Swiss Pairs 1pm – 7 x 6 board matches **BLUE POINTED**

There will be a 45 minute break after 4 matches

BB\$10 per player player paid at registration – advance entry not required.

(Please note that you may play the same opponents more than once)

Midweek Pairs Events

BB\$3 for 18 boards to be paid at registration.

Monday 28th September 1pm – MP Pairs

Tuesday 29th September 1pm – MP Pairs

Wednesday 30th September 1pm – MP Pairs

Thursday 1st October 1pm – Swiss Pairs

Friday 2nd October 1pm – IMP Pairs

KNOCK OUT TEAMS

Limit of 32 teams up to 5 rounds for successful teams

One round per day to be played **28th September - 2nd October**. First round losers play in Plate

Entry £10 per team.

Please email your entry to woe2020@icloud.com giving the real name, user name and EBU number of each player.

Payment should be made to **Somerset Contract Bridge Association** Sort code 30-98-45

Account number 03080007 Please provide your name as a reference.

There will be a plate competition for first round losers so each team is guaranteed at least two matches. The event will attract master points but will not be NGS rated.

The event will not be seeded and a new draw will be issued for each round.

SECOND WEEKEND – GREEN POINTED

!Saturday October 3rd CHAMPIONSHIP PAIRS

Entry 15BB\$ per player paid at the point of registration. Advance entry is not required.

24 BOARD QUALIFYING ROUND AT 1pm followed by all play all finals at 4.30 pm
7 TABLE finals playing 13 x 2 board rounds

Section sizes may vary depending on numbers

If you plan to enter the Championship Pairs or the 9 high pairs please go here:

https://www.bridgewebs.com/cgi-bin/bwx/bw.cgi?club=somerset&pid=display_page94&sessid=527537050430297

and enter user name, real name and EBU number so that we can convert user names to real names and see that you get your master points and NGS data. You only need to do this once and not at all if you have been playing Somerset online games including virtual clubs.

Sunday October 4th SUPER SWISS TEAMS at 1pm

Super because you don't need to set up your own matches.

Entry £50 per team. Please email your entry to woe2020@icloud.com giving the real name, user name and EBU number of each player. Payment should be made to Somerset Contract Bridge Association 30-98-45 03080007

7 x 6 board matches with a break after 4 matches

Sunday will also feature:

The 9 HIGH PAIRS at 2pm

Entry 5BB\$ paid at the point of registration. Advance entry is not required.

18 boards played at 8 minutes per board.

For players ranked no higher than 9 on the NGS. (National Grading Scheme)

If you plan to enter the Championship Pairs or the 9 high pairs please go here:

https://www.bridgewebs.com/cgi-bin/bwx/bw.cgi?club=somerset&pid=display_page94&sessid=527537050430297

and enter user name, real name and EBU number so that we can convert user names to real names and see that you get your master points and NGS data. You only need to do this once and not at all if you have been playing Somerset online games including virtual clubs.

NOTES

To register for an event please search for '**West of England**'

All pairs games will be paid in BB\$ at the point of registration.

Team games must be **paid in advance** to the SCBA in sterling. Please email woe2020@icloud.com to enter.

Undos will not be allowed in the **blue** or **green** pointed events.

No robots.

If you plan to enter any of the pairs events please go here:

https://www.bridgewebs.com/cgi-bin/bwx/bw.cgi?club=somerset&pid=display_page94&sessid=527537050430297

and enter user name, real name and EBU number so that we can convert user names to real names and see that you get your master points and NGS data. You only need to do this once and not at all if you have been playing Somerset online games including virtual clubs.

Master points will be awarded for all events and all pairs events will be NGS rated. In order to keep entry fees as low as possible there will be no cash prizes.

All arrangements are subject to change if entry numbers necessitate it.

Systems and online alerting regulations:

EBU level-4 agreements will be allowed throughout except for the Newcomers and 9 High Pairs which will be Level-2 (straightforward agreements).

EBU online alerting agreements will apply.

An Insight into Online Pickup (random partner) Play by Mike Leach

Playing in one of BBO's highly enjoyable Free TCR-90 tournaments recently, I was dealt the following, second in hand:

S AJxx
H AKJxx
D xx
C xx

For the benefit of those unfamiliar with BBO's range of free or inexpensive games, the Free TCR ones are high-speed affairs where you play six hands in half an hour with random partners, and if you take more than 30 seconds over a bid/play you are instantly thrown out and a robot takes your place. The only permitted bidding system is Standard American (5-card majors, strong NT, 2-over-1 forcing to game) and there is no chat – which has the great advantage that however stupid your bid or play your partner is forbidden from telling you about it, and the great disadvantage that the reverse is equally true.

My RHO passed, I naturally opened 1**H**, LHO passed and partner raised to 4**H**. In Standard American this is even more of a defensive bid than in Acol, guaranteeing good distributional support but few high cards and strictly limited by the failure to bid a Jacoby 2NT.

As it happened my partner held:

S KQx
H QTxxx
D AKxxx
C -

So s/he had good cause to be thankful for the no-chat rule.

As you can see, 7**H** is cold barring a 6-0 **S** or **D** split permitting a ruff of the opening lead (which would still require the 6 to be with the opening leader, and him/her to find the right lead). As it happened both suits split quite sensibly.

The interest of the hand for me is, how do you get to the grand? It seems that responder's obvious first bid, if you play splinters as most of us do, is 4**C** showing good trump support, slam aspirations and **C** shortage. What then is opener's second bid? I can understand just signing off in 4**H** given your minimum opening, potential two **D** losers and possible **C** loser if partner has a singleton rather than a void.

If you play the Scroll convention, as recommended by the great Ron Klinger, you may have other options. But how many of us ordinary club players know that one?

BUT - since partner has already shown an interest in slam - you could pinch your nose and jump in with a cue-bid of 4**S**, which is exactly what partner wants to hear as s/he then knows you have no possible losers outside the trump suit and can employ the antiquated but still handy 'Josephine' grand slam force: 1**H**-4**C**-4**S**-5**NT**-7**H** - a sequence I really like.
Am I employing hindsight too readily?

Thank you to **Mike Leach** for this article.

Next month we will try and include some news from the Virtual Bridge clubs that are springing up (with the help of Tony and Frank) across the County. Any anecdotes or hands from these will be gratefully received.

Further information about Virtual clubs can be found as ever on the **Somerset Contract Bridge Club Association** website (where all details of the recent **AGM** can also be found):

<https://www.bridgewebs.com/somerset/>

and on the Cheddar Bridge Club site:

https://www.bridgewebs.com/cgi-bin/bwon/bw.cgi?club=cheddar&pid=display_page6

and on the Chew Valley Bridge Club site:

<https://www.bridgewebs.com/chewvalley/>