



SOMERSET CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION



SCBA Newsletter



Christmas 2022

Chairman's Message

I hope that you and your friends and family are as well as possible as we continue to emerge from the pandemic and bridge returns to something like normality.

I think we all should be grateful to those running our clubs for their commitment and enthusiasm during what has been a testing couple of years. I certainly am and I extend my thanks to all those committee members of our clubs for their hard work and for the enjoyment brought to their members.

Table numbers at our clubs seem to be recovering, albeit slowly, but county events less so and it is disappointing that we still have to cancel face to face events because of lack of support. While the game itself can be replicated on-line there is no substitute for the sociability of sitting down at the table with like-minded players.

We will continue to offer the opportunity to come along to Woolavington and I point you towards our next event which is a Swiss Pairs on January 8th.

In conclusion may I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year on behalf of myself and everyone on the SBCA Committee. I look forward to 2023 with renewed enthusiasm.

Blue Pointed Swiss Pairs

A great chance to kick the New Year off with a swing and get the grey matter back in action after the festive season.

Venue – Woolavington Village Hall

Date – Sunday 8th January

Time – 1pm

Cost - £12 per pair for an envisaged 6 rounds of 7 boards

Teas will be available at a cost of £6 per person

To book your place please click [here](#)

February 12th

Championship Pairs – Woolavington 1pm start.

Keep an eye out for further details nearer the time.

Stop Press

Some tickets are still available for the **Andrew Robson** event on Wednesday January 25th at the Crispin Hall, Street.

Anyone who has been to one of his seminars will tell you how entertaining and informative these days are opening the intricacies of the game up in an informal and lucid manner. There will be a morning session commencing 10.30 am and an afternoon session from 1.30 pm with an hour for lunch when you can book a warming beef stew or vegetable soup for a small additional cost.

Cost £27.50 per person.

(Beef stew with roast potatoes £6, Vegetable soup and gluten free roll £3).

Don't Miss Out. Click [here](#) to book your place(s).

Success for Somerset Team

The newly formed National Teams League played on-line on Realbridge has just completed its first season.

A Somerset team composed of Ian Morris, Roger Sweet, Alan and Jette Bailey, Ceri Pierce and Eric Cummings combined brilliantly to win Division Two and have been promoted to the First Division for the next season.

If you fancy having a shot at the competition all the details are [here](#)

Tis the Season

Somerset CBA have funds available to help clubs develop and grow. Whether you are looking to invest in lessons for members or beginners, training in administration, technology or marketing or something else that will advance the game in the county please get in touch.

rfeetenby@yahoo.com

MASTER POINT PROMOTIONS

♥ Congratulations to the following Somerset players on their Master Point promotions especially Joe Patrick on achieving the rank of Grand Master!♥

Grand Master Joseph Patrick

2 Star Maste Monica Greenway

Advanced Maste Caroline Nicholas

Master Norman Eve, Liz Hale, Charlie Sutton

County Master Jane Hall

District Master Ruth Angelinetta, David Sands, Angela Sissons

Area Master Sarah Duncan, Maggie Morgan, Andy Rockett, Carol Sanders

Club Master Jill Lang, Stuart Lang, Alf Lewis, Sharon Maddock, Sheila Martland, Susan Mcarthur, Maurice Perl, Joe Puszet, Val Smith, Graham Windsor

Local Master David Wensley, Margaret Woolley

Somerset Competitions

The New Year sees the end of the 2022/3 season and the Competitions Committee are finalising arrangements for 2023/24.

Some events have been less successful than others with previously enthusiastically supported days showing a drop off in numbers while others have been very well attended.

Now is an excellent time to make your feelings known – what events do you look forward to in particular? Are there some that you would like included in the calendar that are not represented at the moment? Let us know what you would like organised to get the most out of your county association.

All suggestions to scbachair@icloud.com

These pesky computer dealt hands:

♠ A Q J 4 3
♥ -
♦ 6
♣ A K J 10 9 6 3

♠ 7
♥ J 10 9 8 5 4
♦ K J 10 5 4
♣ 8

♠ K 6 5 2
♥ A Q 6 3 2
♦ A 8
♣ 7 2

♠ 10 9 8
♥ K 7
♦ Q 9 7 3 2
♣ Q 5 4

(from BBO vugraph)

North dealt and opened 2 Clubs with their big two-suiter. A non-vulnerable East, probably wondering what was going on, overcalled **2 Hearts** raised to **4** by partner after south passed. 4 spades then by North anxious not to miss the 10 trick game, doubled by East with this being taken out by a worried West who thought **5H** might make, might save, might be a mite less risky than a doubled vulnerable game. South maintained a resolute silence throughout.

5 clubs (or 5 spades) is obviously a cakewalk without being bid but have a think about 6 clubs – the **ace of diamonds** is an obvious lead but imagine the pain of a careless **ace of hearts**, ruffed, trumps drawn and the **diamond loser** going away on the **King of hearts**. Vulnerable against not – the joy of sending **5 hearts** one down (not even doubled) was probably inadequate after the thrill of picking up North's hand.

There's a whole lot of bidding going on....

♠ A 4 2
♥ 8 3
♦ A K Q 10 2
♣ K J 8

♠ K Q 9 7
♥ 10 7
♦ 9 7 6
♣ A 6 4 2

♠ J
♥ K Q J 9 6 5
♦ J 5 4 3
♣ 7 5

♠ 10 8 6 5 3
♥ A 4 2
♦ 8
♣ Q 10 9 3

South deals and after two passes North opens 1NT

1NT – 2H (hearts and a minor) – X – P – 3D – P – 3S – P – 3NT – P –
P – X – 4D – P – P – X – p-p-p

The 4D looked like a nervousness about hearts but with no guarantee of a fit the diamonds would work just as well in NT and at a level lower to boot Guessing the blockages would get declarer home but there would be some heart in the mouth moments on the way.

The other table found their spade fit although the split cannot have pleased declarer but going only one off undoubled was a sight better than the two-off vulnerable at this table. A return of 9 imps for EW was decisive in an otherwise close match.

From BBO Vugraph.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

to everyone who has managed to read this far.