



## November Newsletter

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

### Chairman's Message

I remember clearly back in the Spring when people were saying things like “I don't think I will play face to face again until the Congress in October” and were regarded as being very pessimistic. Well the Congress has been and gone, online of course, and one wonders already about the possibility of Congress 2021 taking place at Weston Super Mare. Certainly, the remainder of the county season will take place online but the recent announcement of a workable vaccine gives cause for optimism that f2f bridge will return sooner rather than later.

Our aim will be to resume a normal county programme as soon as the law, the requirements of our venue and the wishes of our members make this possible and desirable. Although our usual congress was an early casualty, I was delighted by the success of our nine day online event. I must admit to some anxiety about whether this would take off but I have to say that all the events were very well supported, there was a minimum number of problems and the county made a decent profit so thank you to all of those who took part. In the meantime, of course we have maintained a schedule of four games per week on BBO in addition to a lockdown league which is now in its fifth incarnation. The county league is now well under way and we are holding as many of our regular events as possible on line and are playing inter county matches.

**BBO** has been a boon during this period but you may be aware of the **Realbridge** platform that is now available. You can read about Realbridge at **realbridge.online** and if you would like to try, we are running games on Sunday evenings at 6pm from November 15th. Details are on the website.

Online bridge has literally been 'the only game in town' for months now and there are those who worry that players may be reluctant to return to bridge clubs. This may be a problem for clubs that have ignored their members since March but on the other hand I think that the experience of online gained by clubs and players opens up tremendous opportunities. For example, a club that meets traditionally on say a Tuesday evening can continue to do so but can augment their programme with online sessions for members or learners at other times of the week when their usual venue would be unavailable because of zumba or rumba. I see the future as a healthy mixture of face to face and online bridge catering for all players when it is convenient for them to play.

Please get in touch if you would like advice or practical help in getting your club involved with either BBO or Realbridge. I want as many of our clubs and members to be playing bridge during these difficult times - we really are here to help and now would be a good time to start planning for life after covid.

Tony  
tony.russ@icloud.com

## Future Events

1pm Sunday November 29<sup>th</sup>

**Swiss Teams** – 6 x 7 board rounds £16 per team of four  
Entry via the Somerset website.

2pm Saturday December 12<sup>th</sup>

**Mens and Ladies Pairs** – 24 boards \$5 per player  
Register on the day on BBO

Sunday December 6th at 2pm  
9 High Relaxed Pairs 18 boards @ 8minutes per board on BBO  
Entry 4BB\$ via BBO on the day

### **Online Championship teams of Four 2021**

Knockout format starting in January with plate competition if sufficient teams.  
Closing date for entries – **December 11<sup>th</sup>**

Entries can be made here: [https://www.bridgewebs.com/cgi-bin/bwx/bw.cgi?club=somerset&pid=display\\_page99](https://www.bridgewebs.com/cgi-bin/bwx/bw.cgi?club=somerset&pid=display_page99)

**Super Sundays on RealBridge** – a duplicate of 18 boards for a mere £2 at 6pm – players will be invoiced by Somerset and need to register on the SCBA website. Both players in a partnership should register and all efforts will be made to accommodate single players (no single supplement!).

There are **Open games** Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 1pm and the EBU runs **9 high games** at 11am and 7.30pm all on BBO. Further details available on the website.

**Lockdown League 5** should come to a conclusion in the next couple of weeks and a sixth incarnation is envisaged so get in touch with Tony if you have a team and are interested in joining in. Much fun to be had as can be seen by the hand given later.

## **Results**

Results for all competitions can be found on the SCBA website.

## County Competitions

by Andy Ridgers andyridgers@gmail.com

### Selection criteria

Normally, we are only able to offer selection to a team of 8, or, in some cases, a team of four. This can make it difficult to offer more than a couple of playing opportunities to most players during the year. Also, with the competitive nature of the Western League, it limits the opportunity to try out new partnerships. Selection is driven by established performance of pairs, and an attempt to distribute playing opportunities as evenly as possible, while still endeavouring to pick teams that will win matches!

Given the friendly nature of the current matches, our aim has been to create as much opportunity to play as possible. This has meant choosing flexible times for matches, and having as many teams in each section as possible. For us as a selection committee, the primary goal is to ensure that everyone who would like to represent the county has that opportunity. This might mean that, for instance, if you have multiple partners, you will probably be selected with each of them in turn, rather than always with your regular partner. It also means that, when we are selecting, say, 8 teams for the B and C divisions in a match, the boundary between each team might be rather blurred. Please don't read anything into the order that we list teams.

### Match against Devon

We have just completed a match against Devon. Overall, we won 4 and lost 7. Thank you to all who took part. I've had some notes from Devon with favourable comments as well.

### Tollemache Qualifier

The selection committee has decided not to enter a team for this year's event. There are a number of reasons for this, including, in no particular order - concern about the use of RealBridge to run the event, concern about the all play all format adopted this year, and a much reduced selection pool.

### Western League

I may have mentioned this before, but it is now certain that the Western League will not operate in any form this season.

### Survey

To help judge how often we should be looking to arrange matches, it would help me if you would complete this online survey. There are four simple questions, so it shouldn't take more than an hour or two to complete 😊. If you have other suggestions about these friendly matches, please let me know.

## Remote Opposition

The Western League gives us an obvious list of local counties to try and arrange friendlies against. There is no need for our opposition to be local, and a number of you probably have links with other counties. If you have contacts in other counties, or countries, that might be interested in organising a friendly event, let me know and I will try and sort it out.

### Stay Alert!

You are playing the penultimate board of a Lockdown League match and pick up this Yarborough.

S 8543  
H 98752  
D 983  
C 5.

You settle back passively in your chair.

You pass and hear opponents bid confidently to a slam as follows:-

E (you)	N	W	S	
P	1C	1D	X	
P	1S	P	2D	
P	3C	P	4NT	
P	5D*	P	6C	* 0 or 3 Aces

Partner leads 6S (obviously a singleton) and dummy comes down with:-

**S** AK72 **H** J6 **D** AK4 **C** KJ108

Declarer then draws trumps, cashes 4 rounds of Spades, before cashing his final 2 trumps. This is what you see in dummy on the lead of the final trump – **S** none **H** J6 **D** AK4 **C** none. Partner has encouraged Hearts earlier on and had been busy throwing Diamonds. What have you been throwing?

Here is the position on the play of the last trump:-

-	-	-
-	♥J6	-
-	♦AK4	-
-	-	-
♥AQ	-	♥98
♦QJ6	-	♦983
-	-	-
-	♥K4	-
-	♦107	-
-	♣3	-

Partner has to discard a Diamond; if he discards the QH, declarer plays a Heart and the KH is his twelfth trick. Dummy now discards the 6H and the spotlight is on you. Hopefully you have been keeping all your Diamonds because your 9D will become the setting trick.

It's been a squeeze on West without a count. West must have the AH for his 1D overcall and note that if he had started with 6 diamonds as well as the AH the squeeze would have been certain to work.

The full deal was:-

	♠AK72	
	♥J6	
	♦AK4	
	♣KJ108	
♠6		♠8543
♥AQ103		♥98742
♦QJ652		♦983
♣762		♣5
	♠QJ109	
	♥K4	
	♦107	
	♣AQ943	

However, this squeeze never happened at the table. Partner led the AH. Declarer now has his twelfth trick and your ability to stay alert with your Yarborough was never put to the test (for which the editor is mightily relieved).

Many thanks to **Ian Morris** for this article.

Q. What's afoot? (1,8,6)		
	<p style="margin: 0;"><b>Bridge Crosswords by Merman</b></p> <p style="margin: 0;">100 Cryptic Crosswords</p> <p style="margin: 0;">£9.99. Search online or order from The Bridge Warehouse, or from your local bookshop.</p>	ISBN 978-1-78963-164-7
A. A stocking filler		

Merman is our own Michael Martin and you can try one of Michael's crosswords [here](#).