



SOMERSET CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION



SCBA Summer Newsletter



Chairman's Message

My apologies for a rather late message from me to introduce myself. After 40 years playing in and for Avon CBA, I've come over to the dark side!

It has taken me longer than I had hoped to settle in the chair:

With only 5 clubs in Avon and 34 in Somerset, the challenges and dynamics are very different.

I'm really happy to report that I have found a vibrant and forward thinking county who have made significant strides since the ravages of the pandemic.

For myself, I will do my best to continue the progress although following Tony Russ is a huge challenge. The work and dedication he has shown, over many years, has been exceptional.

Your committee have been hard at work arranging events for you. The first event, the 9 High had 9 full tables; the feedback was that everyone thoroughly enjoyed the event with a particular comment that it was a very friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

As always, the venue and wonderful tea were praised.

I sincerely hope this will persuade more of you to enter county events. If you have not yet dipped your toes into the water, please remember that there is a discount for players entering their first ever county event.

Do not be daunted by playing in the flagship event, the W.O.E. Congress.

Please remember that when you play in “Swiss” events, after round one, you will be playing against people who are on the same score as yourselves, so there is no risk of only playing very strong players.

My sincere hope is that we all come back to playing more face to face bridge, but for those who are unable or still not ready, please remember we have a good programme of well supported online games available.

Mike Letts



Have a look at what is on offer and see which games you might be interested in on the website. This event is always very popular and proves to be an enjoyable and rewarding weekend

for players of all levels. Early booking helps the organisers as well as ensuring the diary does not get double booked!

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There is still time to enter the a team for the Paul Jones on August 20th . A great event for finding out the mysteries of the bridge thinking of team mates who are not your usual partner.

1pm Woolavington Village Hall £6 per player plus tea if required

Entries can be made [here](#)

The Western League

Congratulations to our A team who have won their division of the Western League,. Before the last match of the season our A team had a narrow lead over Devon. Devon beat Avon convincingly by 16-4 VPs, and so we needed a good win over Wiltshire to retain our position at the head of the division. At the end of the match, we had a 15-5 victory, just enough to keep us ahead of Devon.

Our B team beat Wiltshire by 12-8 and finished fourth in their division and the C team finished sixth in their division.

You can view the results of the various leagues [here](#). To see detailed information about today's match, you need to visit the Hereford Bridge [website](#).

Thank you to everyone who has represented Somerset this season.

The details for next season are now being finalised and all the details are [here](#)

Have a look and see if you are interested and get in touch.

2023-24 COUNTY LEAGUE

The **2023-24 County League** will be played online using Realbridge.

The matches are played on Fridays at 7.15 pm with the first match on 15th September.

New teams and new players for teams who have played in previous years are very welcome, so if you are interested in entering a team or wish to join an existing team please contact Bob Warrender (marianandbob86@gmail.com) as soon as possible.

Teams may consist of players from a single club or from any number of clubs.

Don't forget the Monday afternoon **Somerset game** on **BBO** at 1pm. A fun way of whiling away the time during a wet and blustery summer.

Directors

As a county, we are struggling with a shortage of county qualified directors.

If you are a club qualified director, it would be very helpful if you might consider taking the next step to become a county director. Depending on numbers, the county may well fund your training.

Meanwhile if you have any questions please talk with our chief T D , **Colin Simcox** or **Frank Coltman** .

Of course, for anyone who is considering becoming a club TD, your club will have all the information and can provide support as required .

Congratulations to **Ceri Pierce** and **Eric Cummings** who topped the charts in the **Mixed Pairs** at the **EBU Summer Meeting** with an impressive 64.35%

Congratulations too to the following:

EBU Masterpoint Promotions

Life Master

Russell Day

3 Star Premier Regional Master

Alan Atkinson

4 Star Regional Master

Julian Brown Peter Cresswell

Regional Master

Michael Martin

Tournament Master

Jackie Moody

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|------------------------|---|
| 3 Star Master | Cyndi Harris |
| Advanced Master | John Down Carmen Slade |
| Master | Martin Lambden Rita Harris Robert Judge Mike Fearon |
| County Master | Alastair Catchpole |
| District Master | Ray Newman |
| Area Master | Lindsay Gabriel David Heffill Melanie Pattinson Maurice Perl Jerry Bower Mary Hughes Hilary Lawrence Linda Taylor Martin Brunt Nick Brunt Ian Forrest Richard Gaunt Malcolm Macdonald Lynn Walker |
| Club Master | Bev Andrews Robin Bell John Wilson Wendy Evans Michael Watson Malcolm Allen |
| Local Master | Patti Craven-Wilkinson Jen Eggleton John Eggleton Janet Gardener Cynthia Weight Angela Hendry Pam Rickards Barbara Mabbutt |

The **EBU** have announced changes to announcing and alerting with new versions of the White Book and the Blue Book. Anyone wishing to keep up to date with these which came into effect on August 7th please visit the EBU website: <https://www.ebu.co.uk/article/new-blue-and-white-books>

A Hand to Ponder

Dlr: West
 Vul: N/S

♠ A 4
 ♥ J 9 8 5 4
 ♦ 6 5 4
 ♣ 7 4 2

♠ Q 10 6 3
 ♥ A 6
 ♦ J 8 3
 ♣ A Q 10 9

NORTH
 WEST 12 EAST
 SOUTH

♠ K J 9 8 7 2
 ♥ 10 7 2
 ♦ 2
 ♣ 8 6 3

♠ 5
 ♥ K Q 3
 ♦ A K Q 10 9 7
 ♣ K J 5

| | | | | |
|----|----|---|--|--|
| | 5 | | | |
| 13 | | 4 | | |
| | 18 | | | |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | ♣ | ♦ | ♥ | ♠ | N |
| N | - | 4 | 1 | - | 1 |
| S | - | 5 | 1 | - | 1 |
| E | 3 | - | - | 4 | - |
| W | 3 | - | - | 4 | - |

Board 12, 31st May 2023, Clevedon and Portishead Bridge Club

The actual bidding will depend on opening NT range and perhaps whether weak jump shifts (1C–2S) are played, but West opens, East bids spades (or transfers to them), South overcalls diamonds and West supports spades. Nonvulnerable, and with East having a singleton diamond and West having honours, especially clubs, that are potentially well positioned, EW should push on, perhaps to 4S. This might require South to push them, but note that EW can actually make 4S if East, as declarer, finesses clubs low and returns to hand to finesse again.

Key point (i): with a good trump fit, shortage in the opponents' suit and favourable vulnerability, bid up even if short of high card points.

But you as South, maybe with North's help, could finish in 5D. West wants to look at dummy, so makes the opening lead of AH, then switches to a spade. You win that in dummy, draw trumps in three rounds, then turn to the heart suit. So, which heart did you play from hand at trick one? If it was the three, then you have failed.

Key point (ii): plan the hand on the opening lead before playing any card.

Here, as South you must drop king or queen under AH, then after drawing trumps you can win the second round of hearts in hand and the third in dummy. With the pleasing 3–2 break you now have two winning hearts on which to discard two clubs, and you can make your contract, losing tricks only to AH and AC. Without the right play at trick 1 you have no entry to dummy after the spade switch.

Now let's say you are West, and that South went wrong at trick 1. At trick 8 you probably still hold two spades and all your clubs. South probably then plays KC. Do you win and then cash the queen too?

Key point (iii): be greedy but not hasty.

Why rush to take South one down, letting his JC win the last trick, when you can do better? If you have watched the cards, you will realise that South can only have trumps and clubs left (perhaps one spade, but partner could win that). So take the king with the ace and play another spade. Declarer will have to give you two more club tricks in the end for two down.

Many thanks to **Alan Evans** for this great article. More like this are always welcome from our readers.

A View from Vugraph

When starting out many beginners breath a sigh of relief when the bidding finishes opting for the lowest level possible since they have little confidence in the play of the cards. They need persuading that playing in a game contract is more exciting than playing in a part score, playing in a small slam is more

exciting than playing in a game and playing in a Grand slam which comes up no more than once in 125 hands, most exciting of all.

Naturally there are exceptions to this for which we can rely on Vugraph for examples....

♠ **Q J 9 8 3 2**
♥ **7 6**
♦ -
♣ **K Q 6 5 3**

♠ **A 6**
♥ **A J 4 3**
♦ **9 8 6 5**
♣ **J 10 9**

♠ **K 10**
♥ **10 9 8**
♦ **Q 10 7 4 3**
♣ **8 4 2**

♠ **7 5 4**
♥ **K Q 5 2**
♦ **A K J 2**
♣ **A 7**

This is a hand from the Italian Team Championships in a match where 80 imps changed hands over 16 boards. This was our heroes' bidding with South dealing and opening.

1C – 2H (alerted as showing spades) – 2S – 4C – 4N x **5D** x **5H** – 6C – 7NT (!) x

The commentator mentioned that this might be a candidate for the worst bid hand of the event.

The result was exacerbated by North - South having gone for 1100 on the previous hand.

♠ 8 5
♥ Q 8 7 5 2
♦ J 10 4
♣ J 10 5

♠ A J 4 3
♥ J 10 9 4
♦ A Q 7
♣ K 3

♠ K Q 10
♥ A K 6 3
♦ K 9 6 5 2
♣ 7

♠ 9 7 6 2
♥ -
♦ 8 3
♣ A Q 9 8 6 4 2

This one from the recent Schapiro Spring Fours is a little different. South deals and opens.

Table one went 3C x 5C 5NT p 6H p p 7C x ppp

Table two started with 4C x 5C 5NT p 6H ppp

With 6H going one off the 1400 conceded by 7Cx was not a great score although against a vulnerable slam it would have been neither here nor there scorewise.

The question must be whether one doubles 6H as north. This has two effects – firstly it will prevent partner deciding to bid the sacrifice, secondly it may well push the opponents into bidding the making 6NT.

Caught between a rock and a hard place....