



Christmas 2021 Newsletter

Chairman's Christmas Message

So, we come to an end of another year. What a year it has been and quite where it will lead us in 2022 is anyone's guess. But next year can wait for a few more days and we can reflect on the events of 2021 and make resolutions which we will break at our leisure usually by the first week of January!

2021 has been a difficult year for everyone but I have been greatly encouraged by the efforts made by our clubs to keep the game going, for a long time via online bridge and more recently by a slow return to face to face bridge.

I would personally like to congratulate and thank all those who have continued to keep their club going during the pandemic. These committee members are volunteers and have worked hard to keep their clubs alive over the last months and I thank each and everybody who has helped in any way.

I am also highly delighted by the decision of Crewkerne, Ilminster, Chew Valley and Coxley bridge clubs to affiliate to the EBU. It is my very great pleasure to welcome all four clubs to the EBU.

As I write these notes the immediate future for f2f bridge does not look too bright but all we can do is hope to meet again across the table before too long.

The SCBA committee joins me in wishing you all a very happy Christmas and good luck for 2022.

Tony Russ

Future Events:

With so much still in a state of flux please be aware that any information relating to future events might change at short notice so please check relevant websites for confirmation.

Somerset Online Christmas Eve Special

1pm start on BBO with **prizes**

1st place \$BBO 15 **2nd** \$BBO 10 **3rd** \$BBO 5

Register as normal on the day.

Somerset Online New Years Eve Special

1pm start on BBO with **prizes**

1st place \$BBO 15 **2nd** \$BBO 10 **3rd** \$BBO 5

Register as normal on the day.

If you have not had the pleasure of playing in a Somerset game before please send your details including BBO identity to gina_frank@sky.com

Blue Pointed Swiss Pairs – a chance to ditch those post New Year Blues

Sunday January 9th Realbridge 1pm start
42 Boards with a half time break for £15 per pair
Register [here](#)

Andrew Robson @ Street January 19th Now SOLD OUT – waiting list operating via the Somerset Website.

Dorset Green Pointed Weekend

January 29th - 30th All the details are [here](#)

SOMERSET BARBARIANS ONLINE BRIDGE CLUB

The Somerset Barbarians Bridge Club has developed from a collaboration between Ilminster and Crewkerne Bridge Clubs who played online together throughout the pandemic. Although both clubs are now happily playing face-to-face again, several members indicated a wish to continue playing together online hence the formation of this new online club which is aimed at the average and not the expert club player.

The Barbarians play on Wednesday evenings at 7pm using the BBO platform with 18 board games costing 3BB\$.

All those who have played previously with Ilminster/Crewkerne or with Somerset Online are already registered to play. New players from Somerset wishing to play should contact Mike Dobson.

jeanneandmikedobson@sky.com.

The club has its own website at www.bridgewebs.com/somersetbarbarians which is where you will find the results and other information.

The **EBU AGM** was held on the 30th November 2021 and the county shareholders voted to increase the UM fee for the forthcoming year (2022/23) to 42p an increase of 2p on the previous figure. The county has previously charged UM of 2p but we have decided not to charge any UM in order to support clubs in the current situation. The effect of this is that UM will remain at 42p for 2022/23.

A reminder that the SCBA has made restart funds available and this offer is still open. Please contact the Treasurer, Richard Feetenby at rfeetenby@yahoo.com for more information.

A Date for the Diary

Michael Coda Cup

This will be played week commencing February 14th with the same format as last year (the boards will not be duplicated for different clubs).

Results

Mens Pairs 12th January – Colin Flood and Roger Sweet

Ladies Pairs 12th January – Katrina Foote and Kate Pilkington

Congratulations to both pairs.

Western League:

27th November versus **Avon**

A team won 15 – 5

B team lost 6 – 14

C team lost 1 – 19

11th December versus **Devon**

A team won 15 – 5

B team lost 4 – 16

C team lost 4 – 16

Taster Session at Cannington/Bridgwater Bridge Clubs



“With ten people attending, we demonstrated mini bridge and were able to sign up eight people for the first 10 week course commencing in January. Several others contacted us thanks to our poster being displayed in two golf clubs and a bowling club. That should give us eight from Bridgwater area and four from Taunton. So the Train the Trainer course was well worth the investment!”

Well done to **Suzi** and **Meg** for running the session and thank you for the feedback.

Here’s a fun hand from a County League match between Wells and Yeovil.

At love all, you are West and first to bid holding:-

S	void
H	84
D	AKQJ10654
C	Q42

One table tried a gambling 3NT, whilst the other pre-empted even more vigorously with 5D. It made no difference. Over the 5D opening North bid 5S. Over 3NT, North bid 4S and, when West then bid 5D, went on to 5S. So the contract was the same at both tables. As was the result - making plus 1.

Here is the full deal.

	AKQ10532	
	AQJ	
	97	
	K	
void		J84
84		96
AKQJ10654		void
Q42		AJ1098753
	976	
	K107532	
	832	
	6	

After the lead of **AC**, East is unable to lead a **D** and so North can draw trumps and discard his losing diamonds on dummy's hearts; **6S** is unbeatable.

If West had ventured on to **6D**, it is likely that North would lead a spade and West makes all the tricks by discarding his losing diamonds on partner's clubs. If after **6D** North had decided to bid on to **6S** and West 'saved' in **7D**, then North should lead **AH** rather than **AS** as with less hearts the **AH** is a better bet to hold than the **AS**. In **6D** the **AH** risks setting up opponent's potential **KH**.

As **6S** is making, the par score is **7D** doubled which is 2 off for minus 500.

If over West's opening 3NT North decides to double and West decides to complete the gamble by passing this, he loses all the tricks for 9 off and minus 2,300! Note that if North passes 3NT it would also result in 9 off; minus 450 for a 1 imp gain for West over 4 or 5S making 6.

Thank you to **Ian Morris** for this article.

Take Your Time

Vugraph on BBO throws up some interesting hands at quite regular intervals:

West		East	
♠	AKQJ10	♠	843
♥	AK85	♥	6
♦	A97	♦	KQ54
♣	A	♣	J9754

There were two very different bidding sequences – see which you prefer.

Table One – 2C – 2D – 2NT – 3S (alerted for the minors) – 3NT all pass.

Table Two – 1C (strong) – 1D – 1H (alerted) – 2D – 2H – 2NT – 3C – 3H – 3S – 3NT – 4C – 4H – 4S – 4NT – 5C – 5D – 5S – 6C – 7S.

Something of a swing resulted.....

Have a great Christmas and we hope to enjoy a very happy New Year seeing old friends and new around a table or even, in the worst case scenario, on a computer screen. Keep your tales from the front line coming and we will carry on sending them out to Somerset players.