



Easter Newsletter

STOP PRESS:

MIXED PAIRS - August 24th at 1pm on BBO

This will be played over 24 boards at a cost of \$BBO5 per player.

Entries can be made [here](#) or on the day from 11am.

Notice of A.G.M

It has been decided to postpone the AGM of the SCBA from May until the Autumn in the hope that by then more people will feel confident in travelling to Woolavington for a meeting and bridge.

Therefore the meeting will now be held on Saturday **September 24th** and will be followed by a **Swiss Pairs** game.

Western League Results

Firstly, thank you to everyone who made themselves available to play for Somerset in the Western League this year. We have tried to give everyone an opportunity to represent the county, but I'm sure we won't have got everything spot on. My apologies if we've been unable to offer you as many matches as you might have wished. We started the year hoping to play teams of eight regularly, and have been disappointed in that. It will be discussed again when the Western League organisers meet in the next month or so.

Secondly, thank you to the selection committee - Sheila Coda, Mike Smith and Steve Fletcher - who put in a lot of hard work that must be invisible to most of you. Our goal at the start of the season was to allow as many people as possible to represent the county, and to try and introduce as many new players as possible to playing in the Western League. The committee has performed an excellent job in the last twelve months, allowing a large number of people to play for Somerset and also introducing a number of new players to inter county bridge. The Western League played 7 matches this season, which means a maximum of 28 players could have played in each division. Somerset has had 19 players playing in the C team, 20 players in the B team, and 13 players in the A team.

Somerset won the A division of the Western League with a fine record of 6 wins and one drawn match. You can view the EBU League tables [here](#). In the past there has been a national event for the regional winners. This has been disrupted in the past two two years, but should be held again this year.

Congratulations to all those who represented Somerset in the A division -

Alan Bailey, Jette Bailey, Sheila Coda, Frank Coltman, Eric Cummings, Colin Flood, Rob Lawy, Mike Letts, Ian Morris, Ceri Pierce, Colin Simcox, Roger Sweet and Michael Wigmore.

In the B division, Somerset had a mixed season, finishing in a clear third place with four wins and three losses. Thank you to Jacky Baker, Les Botting, Simon Brooke, Chris Bryant, John Cockram, Pip Duncan, Steve Fletcher, Katrina Foote, Tom Gibbard, Lou Hobhouse, Rob Hobhouse, Mike Letts, Stuart Pratt, Mike Smith, Sally Stuttard, Terry Stuttard, Gillian Toogood, Ray Walder, Grant Weston, Michael Wigmore.

Somerset's approach to the C division was different from other counties, and that has been reflected in some of our results. We will continue to use the C division as a way to introduce new players to county bridge. Thank you to Margaret Adams, Bruce Critchley, Russell Day, Christine Dean, Nell Dillistone, Katrina Foote, Julia Hailes, Mary Harvey, Bob Hearn, Annie Holder, Sue Hornsby, Julie Kennedy, Robin Kennedy, Martin Lamden, Jean Lowe, Michael Martin, Elaine Payne, Bettina Pescod and Michael Powell.

Finally, I would like to hear any feedback about the season, either for the wider Western League group or for the Somerset Selection Committee. And, if you would like to help organise Somerset's county teams, we are always looking to add new members to the selection committee. Expertise as a bridge player is not a consideration; familiarity with the county player base and clubs is the key requirement, as we'd like to feel that all players have their interests equally represented before the committee.

Andy Ridgers

Chair Somerset Selection Committee

Michael Coda Cup – a message from Sheila Coda

Once again, it has been a highly successful Michael Coda competition this year and the £2,000 raised for the Air Ambulance is fantastic. I would like to add my grateful thanks to all those in the county who helped organise the event and made a very generous £94 donation, to Eric Cummings for doing the scoring, to Richard Feetenby for receiving the money and to the clubs who participated or sent donations. Last, but not least, thank you everyone who played in the event, giving another great result.

Results

Congratulations to the **Flood** team that beat **Lanham** in a very closely contested final played over 32 boards on Realbridge. The winning team of Colin Flood, Rob Lawy, Alan & Jette Bailey, Eric Cummings and Ceri Pierce recovered from a half time deficit of 17 imps to beat their opponents Sheena Lanham, Graham Heal, Ian Morris and Paul Burgess by 92-84.

A combined team including Ian Morris will go forward to represent Somerset in the **Pachabo Trophy** later in the year.

Promotions

Congratulations to the following Somerset players on their Master Point promotions:

Premier Life Master	Jacqueline Baker
1 Star Master	Peter Colton
Master	Bob Williams
Area Master	Jane Culley, Ray Newman, Janette Norris
Club Master	John Dourleyn
Local Master	Amanda Campbell, David Drabble, Jill Ford Shirley Skeels-Piggins, Sara Warren

While the bridge season draws to a close **Somerset** will continue to run games on **BBO** on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 1pm while demand is there. If you have not yet tried one of these competitions give it a go. The atmosphere is relaxed with the emphasis on enjoying the great game.

MP games on Monday and Wednesday with an IMPS game on Friday – the sessions run over 18 boards taking a couple of hours or so for the measly sum of \$BBO3.

The Bermuda Bowl was completed last week with Switzerland taking the honours beating the Netherlands by 3 imps over 96 boards. With two ex Dutch players in the Swiss Zimmerman team Holland seemed to be over-represented in the final. The Venice cup was won by Sweden with England earning a bronze medal but going down in the semi-final to Turkey. The D'Orsi trophy was won by Poland beating India in the final and the Wuhan Cup by USA1 who beat France.

There were many interesting boards for the spectators. Excellent daily bulletins were put together by a variety of experts and can be found [here](#)

If you would like to pit your wits against some world class players you might like to try these two hands with your favourite partner.

[Dealer](#)

[Responder](#)

And [here](#) is what happened at the time

This was another one that showed up the glory and despair of bridge.....

♠ A Q 8 5 4
♥ K J 6
♦ 10 4
♣ 8 6 2

♠ J 3 2
♥ 5
♦ A K Q 3 2
♣ Q J 9 5

♠ K 10 9 6
♥ 8 7
♦ 8 6 5
♣ A K 10 4

♠ 7
♥ A Q 10 9 4 3 2
♦ J 9 5
♣ 7 3

The two tables bid as follows, West dealing and opening:

1D – 1S – 1NT – 2H - P - P - X passed out.

1D – P – 1S – 3H – P – 4H – X – P – 4S – X passed out.

Some top notch declarer play and the defence to 4SX, rather surprisingly to at least one player, was not a success - a huge swing resulted.