



SCBA Newsletter

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

I think that all of our affiliated clubs are now back to face-to-face action but inevitably with reduced numbers of tables. There are certainly some lingering Covid worries but also, I think we have to accept the fact that the way we play bridge has changed forever and so we need to embrace that with open arms instead of trying to force people back to the old normal. There is a mixture of f2f, online, evening and daytime bridge making the game as freely available to all as possible.

As ever some clubs have been more proactive than others and I thank and congratulate all those club members who have continued to keep their clubs alive through the past two years. It's not been easy I know. Now is the time to start promoting both your club and the benefits of playing bridge and the EBU has produced some excellent marketing materials which are freely available from the EBU shop. You can see what's available and how it is suggested that the materials might be used here. The Play Bridge 2022 drive has the goal of bringing more people into bridge and into its clubs. I would love for your club members to be part of this initiative by making as much use of these new materials as possible. One proposal suggested is the idea of an

energetic and enthusiastic **relaunch /promotional open day/evening** at clubs across the county during a week later in the Summer. More on this later but in the meantime, I would love to hear from anyone interested in helping with this project.

Not only do we need to recruit new members we also need to be teaching new players and I am encouraged by the clubs that have realized that by teaching they are ensuring their club's future. If you are interested in setting up a teaching programme at your club please get in touch- we have lots of experience and resources to help.

On the playing front our A and B teams were very successful in the Western League. The A team won their division and will go forward to represent the county in the inter-regional finals. The B team also had a good season finishing with the bronze medals.

Also, huge congratulations to Taunton Bridge Club on winning the Southern regional final of the Garden Cities Tournament and they will go forward with seven other counties to compete in the national final later in the summer. We wish the team of Colin Flood, Sheila Coda, Terry and Sally Stuttard, Alan & Jette Bailey, Colin Flood and Sheila Coda every good luck in the final.

The SCBA committee has now set the programme of events for 2022-23 and it is hoped to return many events to Woolavington starting with a 9-High event in July and the Paul Jones (Pivot Teams) in August. The county league will remain online as will the early stages at least of the championship teams knock out and we will continue with our Somerset Online games for as long as sufficient people wish to play.

Time now for a break. Enjoy the Summer and I hope to see you f2f rather than virtually quite soon.

Tony Russ – scbachair@icloud.com

Check out the Somerset website [here](#)

Live Bridge at Woolavington

July 24th 9 High NGS Pairs

1pm start – a competition for those with an EBU rating of 9 or less. This is a great way to start playing in Somerset events ensuring that you are playing similar level competitors: meet new people and gain a fresh perspective on the game, find out why everyone talks about the Woolavington teas and maybe take home a trophy.

The emphasis will be on ensuring that everyone has a good time so do not worry if you have less experience of Bridgemates and the nuts and bolts of these events. Dip your toe in the water and then dive in!

You can check your rating if you do not know it by logging on to the EBU website and accessing MY EBU.

Please enter [here](#) – early entries will help the organisers get a handle on prospective numbers.

August 21st Paul Jones

1pm start – a teams of four event also known as pivot teams where each team member plays with all their team mates. A good chance to find out how flexible your bidding techniques are. This should finish between 6pm and 7pm.

Keep an eye on the website for entry information.

September 24th AGM and Swiss Pairs.

1pm start with bridge from 2pm until 6pm approximately. The bridge is free and the speeches will be short. There will also be awards of trophies from the past year.

Again the website will carry further details nearer the time.

COUNTY LEAGUE 2022-23

The 2022-23 County League will again be played on Realbridge on Friday evenings at 7.15 pm

In previous seasons in the County League teams represented a particular club and all players had to be a member of that club.

For 2022-23 we are allowing a Captain to form a team with players who may be members of different clubs.

The team will be identified by the Captain's surname.

Invitations to re-enter have been sent to Captains of last season's teams, but we would welcome any extra teams.

If you are not familiar with the format of the league you may find some information on the SCBA web site or contact Bob Warrender (01963-440070) [marianandbob86@gmail.com]

Although you do not have to be an EBU member to play in the lowest division of the County League a nominated team Captain needs to be an EBU member.

Please email Bob Warrender (marianandbob86@gmail.com) as soon as possible to register an interest in entering a team.

Latest EBU Promotions

National Master: Michael Wigmore

Advanced Master: Jeanne Dobson

Premier Master: Paul Burgess

County Master: Chris Archer Di Gallagher

District Master: Sue Dunn

Area Master: Joanna Pinching

Club Master: Lindsay Gabriel, Malcolm Hubbard, Bernard Harding,

Marlise Kirkpatrick

Local Master: Jerry Bower, Martin Brunt, Nick Brunt, Mark Erlich, Lucy Fearon, Joanna Hemmings, Peter Hunter, Wendy Ledingham, Tom Rees, Lucy Symondson

A Loss to Somerset Bridge

Sadly Wells Bridge Club has decided to cease their Tuesday sessions since there has been a radical decline in numbers post-Covid. Despite the best efforts of the committee members and other keen players the attendance no longer justifies continuing. Thursday evening sessions are still popular enough to keep going and the website has information for those interested in playing.

In neighbouring areas there are still many clubs operating although there seems to be a tendency for face to face bridge to be played in afternoon sessions (Coxley and the Cheddar/Wedmore afternoon sessions are running smoothly now – again details are available on the respective websites). Chew Valley are maintaining numbers for their EBU affiliated evening game on Thursdays while West Harptree's Friday afternoon, beginners and improvers game is still popular.

Please send in reports of how your club is faring.

Somerset are committed to assisting all clubs in their efforts to revitalise face to face bridge.

To this end Somerset are supporting an initiative to help clubs overcome the problems resulting from the last couple of years. The idea is for clubs to participate in a week promoting bridge throughout the county using open days, trial nights at clubs, free introductory lessons, prize winning competitions and any other ideas that the bridge community may have. This would be a great way to round off the summer and kick off the autumn term.

Keep an eye on your club website and the Somerset website for further details.

Please contact Sheree Pavey secretaryscba7@gmail.com for further information.

PLUS To help get the message out to those who have lapsed from the game, new players and other potentially interested parties, the EBU have a new range of promotional material available to distribute over your local area and these can be seen and ordered from the website [here](#)

This will take you to the Bridge Warehouse 2022 Marketing Drive.

Points Make Prizes (sometimes)

♠ 9 8 2
♥ K 8
♦ A 9 8
♣ A 10 7 3 2

♠ Q J 5
♥ 9 6 3
♦ K
♣ K Q J 9 6 5

♠ 10 7 3
♥ J 10 7 2
♦ J 10 4 3
♣ 8 4

♠ A K 6 4
♥ A Q 5 4
♦ Q 7 6 5 2
♣ -

Here is a hand from the Bermuda Bowl to give hope to everyone who has suffered the vagaries of the game.

England lost the plot with a final contract of **2Dx** for East/West. Which accrued a minus score of 1400. Looks like a disaster until **6D** made in the other room for North/South to score 1370 – just the one imp lost.

In other rooms **2Cx** East/West was a common contract losing 1100 with **Sweden** and the **UAE** scoring a flat board for this. **Egypt** and **Uruguay** both went one better in **3Cx** for 1400 away again.

Have a look at the hands and see how you would have avoided disaster (or which disaster you would have succumbed to...).

Geoff Davies has a bridge blog up and running which is well worth a look.

Have a look at **Bridge Nerd** [here](#)

Whose hand is it anyway?

♠ A 8 7 3 4
♥ 5 3
♦ K Q 5
♣ K 5 4

♠ K Q 5 2
♥ K Q 6
♦ 9 6 8
♣ A 7 2

♠ 6
♥ J 7 8
♦ 7 4 3
♣ Q 10 9 8 6 3

♠ J 10 9
♥ A 10 9 4 2
♦ A J 10 2
♣ J

ifs, buts and maybes.

The interest for me is how north - south find a contract with 23 points and a 5-3 fit in spades, firstly if South opens and secondly if South passes.

1H by South looks reasonable with 11 points and an easy rebid but a Pass is also possible bearing in mind two of the points are dodgy looking Jacks.

If South opens 1H West may well up-rate their hand and bid 1NT (a point light and flat but a double risks finding partner with skinny spade support and getting over excited). In this case will North find a 2 spade bid or just double? After a double then East will try for clubs one way or another and South may then double for take-out.

North has a problem after 1NT if partner has passed. The spade suit does not look great as an overcall while a double looks optimistic and like a pass will let East West find the club suit one way or another. If so will South double for take-out?

The North - South bids are all a bit nebulous as evinced by the club night results of 1NT by West twice and 3 clubs by East twice. Nothing made but even a part score in spades would have scored well compared to a couple off undoubled.

The upshot, as always, seems to be that if you have half a mind to bid then that is all you need.....

None of this material is copyright – please feel free to pass it on and help spread the word about this great game of ours.

Please let me know any items of interest from your club.

Contact me on paul.burgess738@gmail.com