



SOMERSET CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION



Newsletter Summer Special

Premium Events

Assuming that SCBA will not be able to run face to face events for the foreseeable future these will now take place on line:

The Barometer Pairs

Sunday 26th July 1pm

Two eighteen board sessions with a thirty minute break in between. This will be played on BBO costing \$6 – buying BBO dollars is easy. On the home page top right are three blue buttons – log-off help and BB\$. Clicking on the last one will produce a new menu which offers the option purchase BB\$. The transaction can be made with a credit card quite simply.

After the first session the first ten pairs will play in the A final, the next ten in the B final and the remainder of the field will play a Swiss Pairs. The event will be played Barometer style throughout.

A very popular event when held at Woolavington, this will offer a similar experience for less cost and the convenience of playing from your own home.

The Paul Jones

Previously known as the Pivot teams this is a teams event where each player will partner all of their team-mates at some point. Entertaining and instructive in the ways of others this may make you appreciate the old joke about the British and the Americans being two nations divided by a common language....

Saturday and Sunday August 29th and 30th at 1pm on BBO.

On the Saturday a team of four will play 3 x 8 board rounds, each round against a different team with a different team mate in a group match. The Sunday event will then be a knock-out against opposition from the other groups defined by placings from the Saturday.

Cost will be £5 per player (to be billed).

SUPER SUMMER SWISS PAIRS

Starting on **Monday 3rd August**, the SCBA will be running a Summer Swiss Pairs event open to all players from all clubs anywhere. As our bridge clubs are closed for the foreseeable future, this will be taking place on Bridge Base On-line and master points will be awarded based on each pair's final position. The event will run for 3 weeks and each pair will play 2 x 8 board matches a week. Entry will cost £5 per player and entry may be made through this [web site here](#).

[Please see the website for more details on all these events](#)

Chairman's Blog

Although clubs have been on lock down since the end of March much has been happening online nationally and particularly in Somerset. As you may know we continue to run games on four afternoons per week and these average about 20m tables with a complete cross section of players. There is always room for more and details of how to get

involved are on the home page. We also run a two division teams of four league and new teams are always welcome to join.

I am also delighted to tell you that we now have five virtual clubs operating based at **Clevedon/ Portishead, Taunton, Coxley, Fivehead and Iminster/Crewkerne** - the latter being an example of clubs working together. We have been working hard to train new virtual club managers and so we are equipped to take on more virtual clubs and to train more VC managers.

Contact me for more information about how your club can get involved.

I shall shortly be publishing on line some excellent work from Chris Catchpole setting out how he has encouraged and arranged for his players to play in the casual room on BBO. This should be compulsory reading if you are thinking of going down the same route.

We recently held a club chair/committee members ZOOM meeting and this was attended by 20 people representing a complete cross section of clubs and I was very pleased by both the turn out and the enthusiasm of those attending. Many ideas were shared and I hope these will be implemented sooner rather than later.

We have just launched our summer programme which you can read about in this newsletter and on the web page. Our current programme will continue to run for as long as people want it so there will surely be enough bridge to play for everyone in Somerset! In addition to all this teams are representing us in inter county online competitions.

Tony Russ

With face to face bridge in abeyance there has been an explosion in on-line games with some of the bridge sites struggling to cope with demand.

BridgeBaseOnline now has a second server which means that the site is effectively divided into two – Casual and Competitive. This means that logging in will take you to the Competitive server – if your friends are on the Casual server then you will not be able to see or chat to them until you click on the Casual button.

There are occasional glitches with players being 'lost' by the site which might think that they are not logged on or away from their computer. Logging out and logging in again will generally resolve this but a little patience can be required. For those unfamiliar with BBO **Paul Gipson** has produced a comprehensive set of videos on how to navigate the site which are available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL9IOXJf9R9em-kAdxhUGxQniqZJm1PpCl>

Geoff Davies of Cheddar and Wells clubs has kindly offered help and advice on setting up on-line games. geoff@profdavies.co.uk should find him.

Somerset on line games are expanding in line with demand and there are pairs sessions four times a week with MP scoring on **Mondays** and **Wednesdays**, Swiss pairs on **Thursdays** and IMP scoring on **Fridays**. 1.00 pm start times with registration on the site from 11.00 am.

All details and results are on the website.

The **Lockdown League** is in full swing with one session completed and the second on-going. Please get in touch with Tony Russ scbachair@icloud.com if you have a team and would like to enter or you would like to know more.

From the EBU

This time of year is when a number of clubs would usually hold their AGM and it is concerning some that they are not able to do so in the current circumstances. It is worth remembering that it could be held as a virtual meeting using teleconferencing software such as Zoom. This is how the EBU Board and its sub-committees have been holding their regular meetings over the last few weeks, allowing us to consider how we can respond to the current situation and to plan for when it eases off.

For those clubs who don't want to hold an AGM like that, it is worth looking at your constitution to see what provision it has to allow for unusual circumstances such as we are in.

We will be happy to give advice on this to any clubs who are unsure what they are able to do to comply with their constitutional requirements.

From the editor: On this subject the **SCBA AGM** is still scheduled for **6th September** to be followed by the **Mixed Pairs**. This is likely to proceed as a virtual event utilising Zoom and BBO.

Keep an eye out for updates on this.

The editor is always interested in learning of members' experiences in this new world of bridge. Please pass on any anecdotes, advice or queries that have arisen playing on line.

Some of the hands that arise when the computer is dealing can seem outlandish – please let me know any that caused particular consternation and we can include them in future editions.

NOTICES

Bruton weekend now cancelled for 2020

EBU directors weekend 21st/23rd July – this has been cancelled.

Please refer to the website for updates on these and other events.

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