



Happy New Year to all our readers

Forum for the Future

An opportunity to discuss the development of club bridge in Somerset

Monday **January 20th** at the Victoria Club, Street at 10am
Victoria Field, Leigh Rd, Street BA16 0HB

Come along and put your point of view or that of your club, tell us what you want from us and make your voice heard. There are many issues that affect the game at local and county levels and this will give everyone a chance to debate them. The more involved we all are then the brighter the prospects of the game.

Programme

10.00 am Welcome and opening presentation (Tony Russ)

10.15 am Open Forum chaired by Tim Anderson (EBU)

Followed by a break and bridge for those who wish to stay. Basic refreshments will be provided and the bar will be open but those staying for bridge should bring their own lunch.

Registration - No need to register or to bring a partner for the bridge. Just turn up and bring your friends!

Bringing new players into the game will always be one of the primary aims of any county or club. To this end there will be an **EBU teacher training course** at **Nailsea** on **June 1st/2nd** of this year. The better players understand the game the greater the enjoyment and having a trained teacher on board will be a huge asset to any club. The course allows every EBU affiliated club have someone trained for free. Have a chat with your club if you are interested and hopefully we can ensure representatives from across the county.

Upcoming:

January 11th – **Cannington open pairs** – 1pm St Georges Parish Centre, Wembdon TA6 7RR An event for all bridge players with prize money, a raffle and coffee, tea and biscuits provided. Masterpoints will be awarded to EBU members. There is plenty of on-site parking.

Please contact mike.cotterilldsd@btinternet.com for further details.

Cheddar Bridge club will be starting a series of ten beginner lessons at 2.00pm Tuesday **14th January** in the Catholic Church Hall, Upper North Cheddar. This is the free taster session but if you are looking for a unique present that will give a lifetime of pleasure then gift vouchers are available. The course includes a tuition manual normally retailing at £26.

Seminar - **“Double!”** by **Caroline Macpherson** Sunday **February 9th**
Venue – Claverham Village Hall, Bishops Road, BS49 4NF

A look at the various uses of the double card – penalty, take-out, negative and responsive doubles to name but a few. The emphasis as always will be on declarer play and defence.

There is no charge but please register on the Somerset website if you intend to attend so that the organisers have an idea of numbers.

From 10am until 4pm approximately with a break for coffee and lunch (drinks are available all day from the bar but no food so please bring your own as well as a mug for the hot drinks).

The **Teams section of the Interclub Championship** will be held on **January 19th** at Woolavington at 1.00pm. Nailsea and Langport are scrapping it out for the title at the moment but all that could change on the day. The non-affiliated section offers a great chance for clubs to try a new competition if you have not been involved with a Somerset event before. Chew Valley and Weston-super-Mare have a stranglehold on the entries although nothing is decided yet!

Entries can be made here: https://www.bridgewebs.com/cgi-bin/bwx/bw.cgi?club=somerset&pid=display_page34

Bruton Bridge Weekend **March 20th - 22nd**

Ever popular this weekend will cover various aspects of bidding, declarer play and defence. Incorporating four seminars and with pairs sessions scheduled each day this event is suitable for all regular club players. Run by the experienced team of Caroline Macpherson, Daphne Greatorex and Jean Howard this has been a sell out for some years now. Book early to avoid disappointment.

Pairs and singles can both be accommodated with the emphasis being on learning through play.

Accommodation at the Kings School is provided for Friday and Saturday nights but attendees can book individual sessions or arrange alternative accommodation in the picturesque town of Bruton.

All the details can be found here:

<https://www.bridgewebs.com/somerset/Bruton%2020.pdf>

Results:

The Newcomers Congress was a roaring success with 48 players enjoying the wit and wisdom of our tutors as well as a duplicate competition. For North/South Sarah and Veronica took the laurels with 65% while for East/West Sally and Sheree broke 70% with Denise and Sarah also scoring over 66% so well done to them too.

Full results can be found here: https://www.bridgewebs.com/cgi-bin/bwon/bw.cgi?pid=display_rank&event=20191201_1&club=somerset

Ladies Pairs - 7th December - 1st Place Ceri Pierce and Sheila Coda 62.5%
2nd Place Caroline Macpherson and Gina Howard 60.6%
3rd Place Gillian Toogood and Wendy Miller 55.8%

Full results can be found here: https://www.bridgewebs.com/cgi-bin/bwon/bw.cgi?pid=display_rank&event=20191207_2&club=somerset

Mens Pairs - 7th December - 1st Place Colin Juneman and Roger Sweet 58%
2nd Place Ken Bawdon and Michael Powell 55%
3rd Place Michael Wigmore and Michael Letts 53.2%

Full results can be found here: https://www.bridgewebs.com/cgi-bin/bwon/bw.cgi?pid=display_rank&event=20191207_1&club=somerset

13th December saw the fifth round of the County League:

Division One: Langport LH, Wells AR, Taunton RS and Langport LB were all successful.

Division Two: Street JC, Langport AA, Winscombe RH and Sherbourne were all winners.

Division Three: Castle Cary, Frome, Wedmore and Nailsea all triumphed.

The next round will be fought out on 17th January.

League tables with all the current standings and results can be found on the EBU website here: <https://www.ebu.co.uk/leagues/SOM-000015-01>

Full results for County events can be found here: https://www.bridgewebs.com/cgi-bin/bwx/bw.cgi?club=somerset&pid=display_past&sessid=435035260145748

TOLLEMACHE 2019 - NPC REPORT

Somerset were drawn in Group C with the following teams:

Kent, Sussex, Dorset, Nottinghamshire, Surrey, Suffolk, Worcestershire, Herefordshire.

The Somerset team comprised: Sheila Coda – Colin Flood, Eric Cummins – Ceri Pierce, Alan and Jette Bailey, Colin Juneman – Roger Sweet.

Somerset decided to play with a non-playing captain (npc) Steve Tomlinson for the first time. The social side was (as ever) very good with a nice Indian meal and team talk on Friday night. An unfortunate room booking mess up by the second overnight hotel disrupted the social side somewhat with Colin Juneman and Steve Tomlinson being separated from the rest of the team and travelling to another hotel. This resulted in the team being unable to enjoy a team talk, in preparation for the final phase of the event. Eric and Ceri are to be thanked for their efforts in accommodation arrangements.

The group C draw seemed quite favourable with Kent clear favourites and Surrey number 2 seeds. After a good start, Somerset faded to a disappointing 7th place with wins against Herefordshire and local rivals Dorset. There were no large losses against any of the teams and the team lost several matches very narrowly. Our heaviest loss was by 3 - 17 against Worcester - easily our biggest disappointment.

There were no slam bidding issues in the Somerset team although hand 4, session 3 (below) did give somebody the chance to bid the grand in hearts. No team found this but I think Eric and Ceri very nearly did as their bidding sequence located the king of diamonds.

Board	4	S	743	
Dealer	W	H	AK852	
Game	All	D	K	
		C	QT76	
S	J865			S KQ9
H	J63			H 7
D	J6			D 9753
C	A983			C KJ542
		S	AT2	
		H	QT94	
		D	AQT842	
		C	-	

It is hands like this that give one the opportunities against the group favourites!

Steve (npc) had very little to do other than make one tactical team switch for one match. He feels that any four pair team is 'fragile' in the sense that a 'spare' person is necessary in case a team member is feeling unwell or off-form. The npc role therefore fulfils this role and copes with the tedious (though minimal) tactical team change requirements (if any) and paperwork. A five pair team is obviously more robust and definitely needs a non-playing captain.

Steve enjoyed himself over the weekend, exchanging stories with a very friendly and knowledgeable team and meeting old friends from other counties.