

January 2019 Newsletter



SOMERSET CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION



NATIONAL
LOTTERY FUNDED



Find us on
Facebook

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb 4th – 8th Michael Coda sims at participating clubs

Feb 16th Caroline Macpherson Seminar at Ring o' Bells

(details on SCBS website but please email your intention to attend
scbaed18@gmail.com)

Feb 17th Individual Competition at 1pm at Woolavington

Feb 22nd County League 7 at Woolavington at 7.15 pm

BB@B

*A little consideration, a little
thought for others makes
all the difference.*
- Eeyore



Last Sunday Frank Coltman emphasised how important it is to greet one's opponents, rather than discussing the previous hands. Even worse is if the welcoming is replaced with recriminations.

Recent Results

Swiss Pairs on January 6th:



Chris King and Steve Tomlinson

Inter Club Teams

This was played in 3 divisions:

Non-Affiliated Teams, Restricted and Open



Non- Affiliated - Weston Super Mare



Wells - Restricted



**Yeovil - Open Bob Warrender,
Stewart Upton, Shirley Durrant and
Peter Gurman**

Competition Entry (in case you missed this in December)

In order to enable the smooth running of county events; for competitions held on Saturdays entries must be made by the preceding Monday and for Sunday events entries must be made by the preceding Tuesday. If you miss the deadline please contact the director to see if a late entry is permissible.

Nominations wanted:

The Terry Girdlestone Trophy is awarded to any Somerset member who has contributed above and beyond to bridge in Somerset. This could be in an administrative capacity such as setting up programmes and teaching bridge to encourage others to play the game and for being a role model of exemplary behaviour at bridge.' Please send nominations with as much detail as possible to: Sheila Coda. Email: s.coda850@btinternet.com Post to: Stags Head Bungalow, 4 Highbridge, Williton, TA4 4RN, by April 30th 2018. The award will be presented at the AGM

Somerset County League

In the Somerset County League teams represent a Club, but entry may also be made by a 'Barbarians' team of limited experienced players from more than one club.

In 2018-19 there are four divisions with a total of 33 teams representing 17 Clubs playing on certain Friday evenings at Woolavington. (Usually seven per season)

Although almost at a maximum for the number of teams which can be accommodated at Woolavington, any application from new teams or individuals wishing to play in a 'Barbarians' team would be most welcome for 2019-20.

Please contact Bob Warrender (marianandbob86@gmail.com) or Tony Russ to express an interest and obtain more details.

Pairs' League 2019 (note change of dates)

PL2019 starts on Friday March 8th. This event differs from the norm in that scores are compared with those achieved by experts in top class competition and scored as in a teams' event in which all competing pairs have the same teammates. It's fun and it's different and participating pairs are placed into divisions of pairs with similar standing so that mismatches do not happen.

The event is played over 5 evenings with pairs playing two matches each time. The dates this year are:

Friday March 8th at Woolavington

Friday March 22nd at Woolavington

Tuesday April 2nd at Woolavington

Wednesday April 10th at Cossington

Thursday April 18th at Cossington

Entry costs £25 per pair for the whole event and entries are open now.

Last year we had four divisions. Can we go one better this year?

Club of the Month – Minehead

Memories of The Minehead Bridge Club's beginnings are fading, but as a child I remember my very good bridge player Grandmother telling us about the early days between the two Great Wars when she would go along - walking naturally - to an afternoon's rubber bridge at The Wellington Hotel with the Ladies, all dressed up in their finery of course! At the helm in those days was Mrs Perry and membership was by invitation only! During WW2 it all came to an end for a while, but with the return of the men who had learnt our lovely game in The Officer's Mess, commenced again - with the men invited! The club changed venue to The Red Shoes Dancing Studio but records didn't begin until 1990 when Cherrie Cooper-Hawken who had been fiercely keeping things in order retired as Club President.

The club had grown under Cherrie's careful leadership and with her retirement, Frank Taylor who had been the Honorary Secretary since

he moved into the area, became President in 1990. He then insisted on minutes being taken! The club made another move on to The Beach Hotel. Once there, under Franks guidance, it was decided to move into the modern game of Duplicate and eventually we became affiliated to the English Bridge Union. But it was 'Ssh keep your voice down, we've got that board next!' So along came silent bidders - remember them? - and finally the bidding boxes we all use now. Going from strength to strength, members were playing County events and with the arrival into the area of Kathleen Shrewsbury - soon to become our new Secretary, some were also representing Somerset for Inter-County events.

But by now the Beach Hotel was too small for a growing membership as Frank, along with David Beach were by now teaching groups and encouraging new inexperienced members into the fold. So on to The Oak Room at The Hobby Horse - too dark - and on to The Northfield Hotel - nice bar! - where we 'lodged' for years, with Alice and Peter Jackson by now very much at the helm, until the management decided they required the Conference Room themselves.

We are now very happily settled in The Avenue Methodist Church Hall, playing duplicate bridge on Tuesday and Thursday evenings under the guidance of our trained Directors. Chris Parkin is our current Chairperson, and also teaches Beginners or Improvers from time to time as does Nigel Cox. Our Thursday evenings are non pay-to-play, just a very informal 'light duplicate' evening which our less experienced members seem to prefer, and with a £5 prize for coming top! More experienced players are very welcome but are only allowed the prize once.....after that they are handicapped out to enable our less experienced members the chance to win something. With careful guidance and encouragement they are slowly gaining confidence and some are filtering in to play on Tuesday as well.

We have around eighty members, some who are just starting to 'climb the ladder' and have just become Local Masters. We cover a huge range of experience, including one member who is a Grand Master which is almost as high as you can go! Our members play for pleasure and some represent the club or themselves in County Events, and some play for the County and some in National Events.

We are a friendly bunch, always happy to welcome anyone into our club. There is usually a Spare Partner, so you can arrive on your own. We now have a website too, so why not google Minehead Bridge Club and read all about us. We'd love to see you and you can become part of our story.

Jackie Moody – (joined in 1984.)



(It was your editor's first bridge club in Somerset – I joined in 1977 and can endorse what a friendly welcome I received)

Recent hand from Western League

Following the recent Western League match against Dorset, Steve Tomlinson was disappointed by the failure of players to reach a grand slam on Hand 19. You can see all the hands from this match by clicking [here](#).

Steve wrote to his fellow players and his comments are reproduced with his permission.

Firstly Steve Tomlinson has two well known laws of bridge dynamics

1. Bridge at our level is a bidders game (we can all play the cards!)
2. If you miss a straightforward slam, you immediately sort out with partner why you missed it and correct things so you don't miss the slam again (on the same or similar hand)

Here are the hands:

West	East
S K x x x	A x x
H A x	10 x x
D A	K Q J 10
C A K Q x x x	J x x

So if my partner opens 2 clubs and rebids 3 clubs over my 2 diamonds, I could retire to my bedroom and put a card on my bed saying, " 6 clubs. Do not resuscitate!" But that is just lazy bidding and this 99% slam requires more thought to see if we can get to the grand slam.

So firstly, if you have 'splinters' written on your convention card, may I suggest you typex it/them out and use straightforward cue bids.

There are 2 rapid routes to the grand slam:

1. Pure cue bid route - 2 clubs 2 diamonds 3 clubs 4 clubs (essential - where else do you think you're going to play?) 4 diamonds 4 spades 5 hearts 7 clubs - KQJ10 = AAAA i.e. 4 certain tricks
2. Cue bid and Blackwood - 2 clubs - 2 diamonds - 3 clubs - 4 clubs - 4 diamonds - 4NT (RKCB), 5 clubs or diamonds (depending on how you show 4 key cards) and then next suit up to ask for trump queen and additional kings. Queen of trumps + other king confirmed. Then 7 clubs (or 7 NT if you want to show off!)

Chairman's Blog #5

The start of 2019 is a most exciting time for us in Somerset mainly because of the appointment of our first club membership development officer, Gina Coltman. You can read all about her and the project elsewhere in this newsletter but to précis the reasons behind the appointment, the EBU is conscious of falling membership in EBU clubs and we in Somerset are also aware of this. We wish to support those

clubs who would like to join us in this endeavour. Gina will be in touch with all EBU clubs and a meeting of interested parties will be held subsequently.

It is now over a year since we secured our grant from the national lottery to support our Fast Forward to Bridge programme. Since then two courses have completed and already learners from these courses have progressed into club play. Fast track learning and quick immersion does seem to be working. A third course has just started with Weston Super Mare BC ; a fourth will start in Taunton in March and maybe a fifth in Winscombe later on. The model is now well developed and available to any club who wishes to run such a programme. This is bound to tie in with Gina's work because teaching must form an important part of any clubs membership development aspirations

Participation in our events has been at near record levels with 20 tables playing in the Swiss Pairs, 19 in the Swiss Teams and 18 in the Men's/Ladies' pairs. In addition we had 25 teams for the inter club events and what is really pleasing is that seven of these came from non-affiliated clubs. Obviously we hope that these clubs and players will like and enjoy what they experience – good competition, a friendly atmosphere and most importantly **BB@B!**

The Michael Coda Cup takes place soon. This is our charity event and this year we are supporting Penny Bohn 'Living Well with Cancer'. Not every club can participate but it would be wonderful if others would follow the lead of Wells and Street Bridge Clubs (and possibly others) in sending a donation to the chosen charity via the county treasurer.

Finally we look forward to another of Caroline Macpherson's seminars and this time we have decided to take the event to the north of the county in the hope of attracting more players from that region in addition to the normal attendees. Full details are on the web page as in information about this year's Bruton event at the end of March.

In future the newsletter will carry obituaries for members who have played in Somerset for over twenty years, both in clubs and for the County. Please let me know if any such members should receive a notice.

Heinz Brunsch

Heinz Brunsch died peacefully on 26th December aged 89. He had become physically frail over recent years but his mind remained sharp until the end. He arrived in Somerset with his family in 1939 as a refugee from Czechoslovakia. He lived in Wellington from then on and later ran a very successful shoe repair business.

He seemed to excel at everything he tried. He was a good chess player and played dominoes in national finals and was a dab hand at darts. However it was bridge where he had his greatest achievements over a period of over 40 years. In his heyday he won many County competitions. His principal partners were John Gibbs, Jackie Waters and Nigel Maggs, He represented the SCBA in the Corwen, Pachebo and Tollemache on a number of occasions. That he did not attain the level of Grand Master was due to the demands of his business which prevented him from competing in Green Point events.

He will be remembered for his forthright views on many matters (especially the EBU). He strongly supported Somerset's split from Avon in 1989. He was a very generous and fair-minded person who delighted in bringing armfuls of flowers for the ladies at Taunton Bridge Club, and handed out fruits and vegetables which always flourished as he was a great gardener.

He will be very greatly missed at the Taunton Bridge Club and throughout the county. We extend our deepest sympathies to his family and to Anne Rooke, his companion in recent years.

GINA COLTMAN



Hi, my name is Gina Coltman the new Somerset Membership Development Officer. I have been appointed by the SCBA committee to help drive up membership in affiliated clubs. You may have met me serving tea and coffee at the County League as I get involved in all sorts of bridge related activities. I am a passionate, if not very talented 52 year old bridge player who has been enjoying the challenges of the game for the past 15 years. I have a background in Learning and Development with a degree equivalent qualification in Training and Occupational Learning. I have used these skills to teach bridge, run bridge clubs and cruise bridge and Bridge Holidays. I also helped launch BT's online Bridge Programme Wireplay at the EBU Summer Congress. I have consultancy experience, having been a Consultant for both the British Military and BT. I live in Frome with my wonderful husband Frank who likes to play Bridge with me when he doesn't have a better offer. It is my vision for people living in Somerset to once again appreciate or to learn to play Bridge and I am delighted to have been appointed the Somerset County Bridge Development Officer to further this. I will have quite some responsibilities. However, I'm sure that with your encouragement, participation and support, no task will be too daunting for me to accomplish. If you would like help to drive up the numbers in your club then contact me through my email, scbacdo@mail.com or by phone Home 01373 451833 Mobile 07368584475.

And Finally

**I'm just going
to put an
"out of order"
sticker on my
forehead and
call it a day.**

Does anyone else feel like this while playing? Or am I the only one?

Any communications can be sent to – joan.pooley@sky.com