



NEWSLETTER September 2019

Dates for your diary:

Mixed teams event at Woolavington 1pm 21st September 2019 – teams of four with at least one male/female on each team. More details are available [here](#).



Note (1) – individuals are looking for possible partners for the Congress. If you are interested please contact scbachair@icloud.com.

Note (2) – the draw for the County Knockout teams event will be made at Congress – captains need to get their entries in quick!

Andrew Robson Seminar: October 18th Victoria Club, Street

Sold out please contact **Daphne Greatorex** if you would like to be added to the waiting list on daphne.great@sky.com

Winscombe Bridge Club – lessons

October 1st commencement – a two year course for beginners, EBU approved.

Improver lessons on Saturday mornings: 25th September, 26th October, 23rd November and 14th December. These are suitable for those who have completed the two year course or those playing already and looking to improve. Please contact Janet O'Brien on the club website bridgewebs.com/winscombe tuition for further information or to book a course.

For those further south Taunton bridge club are running assisted play sessions on Friday evenings from August 16th until the end of November. More info from Sheila Coda on s.coda850@btinternet.com

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Tournament Director training - November 2nd

9.30 – 2pm Woolavington village hall.

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Caroline Macpherson seminar – 16th November Victoria club, Street
Details to follow.

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Newcomers Bridge Congress - 1st December

An **SCBA** event to be held at **Cossington Village Hall** starting at 10.30am running until 5pm approximately. For all newish players this will give you the opportunity to benefit from a seminar by one of the county's leading teachers, meet other new players, enjoy a lovely lunch and take part in a gentle competition with lots of prizes!

Who is it for? Anyone who has just taken a beginners' course or has been playing for a short while, those who play at home and would like to find out more about playing at a club, those looking for other people to play with or against, those seeking new places to play. You don't need to come with a partner- one will be available.

The cost is only £5 per person – please book in advance via the [scba website](#) and selecting competition entry in the main menu.

Chairman's Blog #9

It's August Bank Holiday as I write and already two county events, the Barometer Pairs and the Paul Jones, have taken place with two mixed events, the Pairs and Teams, scheduled for September. The county league too starts in September and I am very pleased to welcome a new team from Weston this year led by Diana Brown. This year we shall have four divisions of eight teams. I wonder if anybody can break the hegemony of the team from Taunton and I wish all the newly promoted teams good luck in the higher division.

Of course we are happy to invite our non-affiliated clubs to take part in the county league and hope that many such clubs will also take part this season in the inter club competition which has a section for non-affiliated clubs which was won last year by Chew Valley. These events will shortly be followed by our big event of the year, the West of England Congress at the Winter Gardens in Weston super Mare. A lot of effort goes into this and I trust that the event will be very well supported by local players.

This season we will be running our regular schedule of tournaments in addition to two Caroline Macpherson seminars, a visit from Andrew Robson, our popular Bruton weekend and events for scorers and TD's and of course the Michael Coda Cup. Details of all events can be found on the website. We gave good news already - the Langport team of Colin Juneman, Caroline Macpherson, David & Gina Howard has reached the semi-final of the NICKO tournament for 2018-19. This is a fine achievement in a national event and we wish them all the best when they face a team from the Young Chelsea BC in the semi-final.

One thing that worries me as your chairman is the small number of clubs that run teaching programmes. Details of opportunities at Winscombe and Taunton are on the website as are details of lessons from Lou Hobhouse. I know there are others offering lessons and seminars but we are nowhere near my ideal of all clubs being teaching clubs. The SCBA has great resources available and we are more than keen to encourage and support clubs that wish to guarantee their future by teaching and supporting new players. Please get in touch with me if you would like to know more.

I wish you every success for the season ahead.

Tony Russ

Results from Somerset Competitions:

Paul Jones 25th August

First place with a superb score of 164 VP's – Sheila Coda, Colin Flood, Rob Lawy and Roger Sweet (see picture below).

Second place with 155 VP's – Graham Heal, Gina and David Howard and Colin Juneman.

Third place with 137 VP's – John Cockram, Frank Coltman, Russell Day and Colin Simcox.

Full results are [here](#).



Mixed Pairs 1st September

First place Chris King and Steve Tomlinson (below) with Sheila Coda and Roger Sweet in second both breaking 60% with Roger Hoare and Ann Slee just behind.

Sheila and Roger were the only pair to bid and make a grand slam in the event.

Full results are [here](#).



Chris and Steve receiving congratulations from Frank

Focus on Weston-super-Mare Bridge Club

A non-affiliated club in the seaside resort town based at Haywood Village Academy, Whitney Crescent BS24 8ES, a new venue with improved parking and accessibility.

The club run three duplicate sessions each week – Wednesday evenings with a 7.00pm start, Friday afternoons and Saturday afternoons both commencing at 1.45pm. Table money for all sessions is a mere £2. The ethos is one of No Fear bridge with all welcome with less experienced players particularly so on Saturday afternoons.

Please get in touch with Daphne Greatorex on 01278 555897 daphnegreat@sky.com for further information. She will try to arrange partners for individuals and lifts for those that have trouble getting to the venue.

The club made a great showing in the Inter-Club teams event this year entering four teams including the winning team who included Lin and Mike Dudley and Lesley Mundy among their number. The winning score was +66 imps – mightily impressive.

This year the club will be entering a team into the Somerset league so there are plenty of opportunities for players at all levels.

The website is worth a look on <https://www.bridgewebs.com/westonsupermare/>

Finally here is the Grand Slam hand mentioned earlier. How would you do?

♠ -
♥ QJ93
♦ 64
♣ K986432

♠ K943
♥ A1075
♦ AK102
♣ 10

♠ AQJ107
♥ K8
♦ Q753
♣ A7

♠ 8652
♥ 642
♦ J98
♣ QJ5

Much could happen here. On what does the Grand depend? Possibly knowing about the club singleton could help propel EW into the big one. A 4 club

response to a spade bid from East and the grand might be tempting after looking at the Ace/King situation. What could stop this? A pre-empt by North at the four level would be enough. Would you pre-empt with a side four card major? Perhaps not if it is unbid but an opening 1 heart from West might change your view hoping that restricting the opponents' bidding might result in them ending up in the wrong place. So now the question is how to open the 4441 hand in West. 1 diamond and North may keep quiet. 1 heart and perhaps they will bid. So many questions.....

In real life the bidding went 1H - 1S - 3S - 4NT (RKCB) - 5D (1430) - 5NT - 6D (showing the king) - 7S - admirably straightforward and without any of the above angst.