

## SOMERSET COUNTY BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

### **AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2011**

#### A New Season Dawns

I hope you have all enjoyed the summer and are looking forward to the new season, which kicks off with our traditional event, the Paul Jones on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September. This year we are going to the village hall of Kingston Seymour, which we hope will be our new north of the county venue in coming seasons. The Paul Jones is a bit of fun, as all of the team members have to partner each other at some time throughout the event.

I am pleased to report the new County Selection Committee has bedded down well and been working very hard during the summer. The county teams for virtually the whole season have now been selected under the new selection criteria put in place last year. Full details of the selections can be found on the county web site.

Getting everything ready for the new season requires a lot of hard work behind the scenes. I am sure most members will have seen the revamped county web site ([www.somersetbridge.org.uk](http://www.somersetbridge.org.uk)). Personally I have found it much simpler to navigate around and would like to thank Tony for such a good website.

Ann Bawdon is as busy as ever preparing for the West of England Congress. At the time of writing the green point swiss teams event is nearly full and entries to the green point swiss pairs event are not far behind. There is plenty of room for the Friday events and if you haven't entered yet, please get in touch with Ann urgently to avoid disappointment.

Bob Warrender has just finalised the county league programme and with 28 club teams competing in three divisions it is as popular as ever.

I would also like to thank Les Botting for drafting and sorting out the new season's handbook. I hope it has now been distributed through the affiliated clubs. If you have not got a copy yet, let me know as I have a number of spare handbooks available.

Finally I would like to remind all members about the EBU's best behaviour policy. The success of our events relies on all competitors enjoying their county bridge experience, and if all members adopt this behaviour code, we will continue to have a

thriving county programme.  
Michael Whittaker

#### Brighton 2011

Frank Coltman and I played in the Swiss Pairs at the Brighton Summer Congress in August, and although we didn't do very well, we did enjoy ourselves. The real highlight (for us) of this first weekend was the Midnight Speedball. Friday night was pairs, and we were clearly not properly warmed up, as we only managed somewhere mid-field. Saturday's Swiss teams was very different; we had already played seven 8-board matches during the afternoon and evening, and were fuelled up on full English breakfast, pie & chips and fruit cake & red wine. We hadn't arranged team mates, but were soon teamed up with a 'more mature' pair (the majority of players at this time of night are under 50). However, it soon became apparent that they had not been idle, and were well equipped with lemonade from the bar.

The format was five 5-board matches, and we were given about 18 minutes to play each round. It soon became clear (from the amount of heckling) that some teams were taking this quite seriously. We had small wins in our first two matches, and then a better win put us on table one for the fourth match. A very tight match saw us lose by 3 IMPs. Our opponents for the final match can only be described as 'excitable'. Unfortunately (for them) part of their 'system' seemed to involve psyching a 1S opening quite frequently. This led to some slightly unusual contracts, including 7NT\* (down 6, vulnerable). On the very last board, they arrived at 6D before you could say 'empty beer glass'. Being on lead, and holding no less than AK, A, A (including the ace of trumps), I ventured a double. This was immediately redoubled. I have to say that dummy was particularly useful, and all but my ace of diamonds were ruffed, thus -1830 on the scorecard (not very common). Best behaviour at bridge tends to be slightly relaxed after midnight, which was lucky, as there was a certain amount of gloating at this result (I say gloating, more of a lap of honour around the room). I did ask declarer if he thought that the board might in fact be flat, and this seemed to deflate him slightly.

Scoring up, we had gained 5, 17, 9 and 15 IMPs on the first four boards. Even though our pair had reached 6D, and it had been doubled, they had failed to redouble. We did therefore lose 7 IMPs on the board. It still meant a 20-0 win and overall victory. Well done team!

Colin Simcox.

## Big Swings from an Innocent Hand

The hand featured was brought to my attention by Nigel Maggs and was played in last season's final round of County League matches. Nothing about it looks special but in the A division it created a number of different contracts, and in at least two of the matches 16 IMP net swings resulted in each of them.

Both sides were vulnerable and you hear a weak 2♥ opening bid on your right. You as South hold

♠ K1094

♥ 8

♦ AQ103

♣ QJ96

What would you do? The favourable distribution makes it very tempting to make a take out double, but wouldn't your partner expect a little more in your hand in first position? Well some made a take out double which was now passed around to partner in the North seat who had

♠ 8632

♥ KQJ7

♦ 92

♣ 1074

I know of at least one player who converted the take out double into a penalty double probably expecting better values in his partner's hand. This was hardly successful, as 10 tricks rolled in as just about every card was in the correct place for the opponents. Sitting under declarer though was not the best place to be with that trump holding and leaving the double in was certainly on the risky side, even if partner should have been a bit stronger. Salt was firmly rubbed in the wounds when a quiet 2♥ plus 2 was made at the other table and a 16 IMP swing resulted.

The opponent's hands were as follows:

East

West

♠ Q5

♠ AJ7

♥ A109642

♥ 53

♦ J

♦ K87654

♣ K853

♣ A2

At my table sitting South I was faced with a multi 2♦ opening from East, which I passed. A 2H bid was made on my left and was passed around to me. In the protective position you can probably be about a King lighter in values than you ought to be when competing in first position, so I decided to make a take out double with the good shape. This time though my partner was not tempted to place me with more than I had (he has seen my protective bids before!) and correctly removed the take out double to 2♠. The unfriendly layout of the cards led to two off and minus 200. Not too much damage

then. Hopes were raised as somehow our team mates got to the making 4♥ game in their direction. They were quickly dashed when the hand had not been played as well as it could have been. A further minus 100, and 7 IMPS went out of the window instead of what could have been a fortunate plus 9 IMPS to the good guys!

Michael Whittaker

Each year one or more bridge events are organized and promoted by the SCBA Committee in support of a charity. Last year £1541 was raised for Somerset Cancer Care. This year's nominated charity is Secret World. It specialises in the rescue, rehabilitation and eventual release of orphaned, injured and sick wildlife and is the only 24/7 service in the South West. It is based in Highbridge. The Michael Coda Cup is our County's principal fund raising event. It is a simultaneous pair's competition played in participating clubs who are affiliated to the SCBA. It will be held on each day during the week of 20 to 24 February 2012. All of the entry fees and donations less costs incurred by the SCBA are passed on to the nominated charity.

**County Education Officer** May I introduce myself to you as the County Education Officer. My role is to promote courses, classes and one off events to both increase the numbers of those playing and teaching the game and the playing standard of those who wish to improve. The Somerset CBA is committed to supporting the EBU's plans for the development of Bridge. Our county web site will be used to advertise courses for teachers and directors, classes for players and seminars for all those interested in improving their game.

Clubs are also invited to submit their plans for courses/classes for promotion via the county web site and teachers are invited to submit their details for inclusion in the directory of teachers. For either of these or any other purpose to do with bridge education in Somerset please contact me: [tony.russ@btinternet.com](mailto:tony.russ@btinternet.com)

Dates for your diary: Our County League starts on the 14<sup>th</sup> October and continues on the 28<sup>th</sup> at Woolavington. Mixed Teams of Four 15<sup>th</sup> October at Street, County Swiss Teams 20<sup>th</sup> November at Woolavington, Mens and Ladies Pairs 11<sup>th</sup> December at West Camel.

If you wish to make a contribution to the next newsletter please contact me Rachael Brown on [scba.bridge.somerset@gmail.com](mailto:scba.bridge.somerset@gmail.com).