

GCBA NEWSLETTER

Season 2015-16

June 2016

Programme

And this month we have -

- Mon 6th : Summer Teams 1
- Mon 13th : Swiss Pairs 2
- Mon 20th : Summer Teams 2
- Mon 27th : Summer Pairs 1

Other dates for your diary

- Sunday 5th June : County AGM and the CHAMPIONS CUP, with a 1330 hrs start. The Champions Cup is a two session pairs event, with prizes both for the opening session and the divisions which follow. It should finish by 1900 hrs.
- Saturday 2nd July for the EVERETT CUP. This is a teams competition, and you enter as a team of four. We are using the event as a fund raising venture for the MINDSONG charity. It starts at 1130 hrs and the entry fee of £15 included a hot lunch and a contribution to MINDSONG. The day should finish before 1800 hrs.
- Sunday 3rd July – CBC is one venue of three for the new cross-county Midlands Improvers Pairs. It is limited to those with under 5000 master points (~those of under 5 years experience). It is a 1430 start and the £10 entry fee includes a high tea, and a hand commentary.

GCBA MONDAYS SUMMER COMPETITIONS

For both the pairs events and the teams events (all the Mondays in June through August) you just need to turn up as a pair. It would help if ctd@gcba.org.uk knew of any new pairs coming to the Swiss Pairs on the second Mondays. You can play any of these with as many different partners as you like.

Contested Claims

Another area of the Laws which often generates concerns is claims, and again the rule-makers have taken pains to ensure that making a claim is not a way of improving your result – so that in making a claim you can never be accused of cheating.

The key rule to remember is that as soon as a claim is made, all play ceases (and cannot restart) and if the claim is disputed then the TD should be called.

The most awkward cases for the TD to manage are where the claimant has made no statement of play. The Laws tell us that you don't lose tricks you could never lose, and that the TD must "adjudicate the result as equitably as possible to both sides". They also say that doubtful points are resolved against the claimer, and the Laws specifically state that an outstanding trump will be a trick against the claimer in most circumstances.

The best advice is – to claim only when you are sure, to make a clear statement, and always to comment on the trump position (unless of course you are playing in no-trumps).

But if a contested claim goes against you, please accept it with good grace and resolve to be more careful next time!

All the same instructions and advice go with concessions.

External Results

The EBU Interclub Knock Out still have a Cheltenham team playing Exeter, but in the Gold Cup some of the Cheltenham interest died this month. The County performance in the Garden Cities was not good enough this year. ☹

GCBA Results

In League Division One, the Shields team suffered its first loss in the last match but still won Division One by 21 VPs. In Division Two, the final round saw the Harrison team beat their rivals Swannell by 14-6 to win the division by 22 VPs, and both of those teams have earned promotion for next season

The fifth and final session of the Spring Pairs saw a win for Peter Swales and Anne Swannell, but across the five sessions Tony Hill & Alan Wearmouth came out first, followed by Roy Collard & Pam Pearce. Along with the winners only Rod Gass and Peter Jackson made all five sessions (and so drop their two worst scores).

The first session took place of the Summer Swiss Pairs, and of the three undefeated pairs, the leaders are Mark Rogers & Peter Waggett on 44 VPs, followed by Paul Lilley & Mike Wignall on 42 VPs.

In the final of the County Knock-Out, the team of Angseesing & Chamberlain, Butland & Denning had a comfortable win (for once) and they will proceed to represent the County in the EBU's Pachabo Cup in June. We wish them all the best.

Congress Results

The Swiss Teams and the Mixed Teams were both won by Joe & Wendy Angseesing with Keith Stanley & Alan Wearmouth. The Mixed Pairs was won by Joe & Wendy. The Ladies Pairs was won by Lesley Harrison & Alison Pritchard. The Mens' Pairs was won by David Ballinger & Ashok Kwatra. The No Fear Pairs was won by Penny Healey & Penny Stanbury.

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Summer Swiss Pairs

This hand was the final board in session one

♠ A9	♠ Q63	♠ KT8542
♥ --	♥ AK2	♥ JT85
♦ AJT97642	♦ Q85	♦ 3
♣ AT2	♣ QJ97	♣ K8
	B 24	
	DLR: W	
	♠ J7	
	♥ Q97643	
	♦ K	
	♣ 6543	

North-South were generally silent and the first choice came to West after 1♦-1♠. Some bid 2♦ but with the same hand and a six card diamond suit, the hand is two tricks worse off – so this hand must be worth 3♦ despite only having 13 hcp.

After the 3♦ rebid the spotlight is on East. With stoppers in the other suits 3N is a possibility but in practice nobody ended in 3N. At one table the 3♠ choice got raised to 4♠ but this didn't handle well.

The best contract is actually 6♦. If you get a trump lead you can push out the jack of trumps, win next trick on hand, draw any remaining trumps, and ruff out the spades while there is still a club entry in dummy. If they try anything else at trick one you can ruff a club for the twelfth trick. Sad to say the one pair in 6♦ failed to spot the winning line.

Bidding the slam is difficult. After 1♦-1♠-3♦-3N, the West hand should continue with a cue bid of 4♣ but identifying the East's kings are opposite the aces and not opposite the void is too difficult. Still, playing 5♦ making +1 still would have scored above average.

League 10

This text book hand came up in the last session of the League and nobody spotted the right line – can you?.

♠ QT6	♠ J42	♠ 87
♥ J874	♥ AKQT93	♥ 3
♦ 85	♦ QT	♦ KJ963
♣ AK62	♣ Q3	♣ JT975
	BOARD 19	
	DEALER: S	
	VUL: EW	
	♠ AK953	
	♥ 65	
	♦ A742	
	♣ 84	

The bidding was usually 1♠-P-2♥-P-2♠ after which North might have preferred to investigate hearts but in practice usually settled for 4♠ in a known fit. We had 8 tables played spades and 4 tables in hearts but it was the spade game in which interest arose.

Every table led a club and after two rounds West would always switch to the ♦8, covered by the ten, jack and ace. Declarer's first hope in 4♠ is to find the queen and the best odds for that are cashing the ace and king. The queen doesn't drop but at least the trumps break 3-2..

Declarer's only chance now to make the game is to discard three diamonds on hearts, and for that to happen the hand with the long spade must follow four times to hearts, so that the final diamond can go on the fifth round of the suit. Which means the hearts must break 4-1 as any 3-2 break would allow a ruff too early.

If the hearts are 4-1 then the best odds is for declarer to finesse for the jack onside, and that duly delivers the goods here. No other line of play offers any chances at all. Nobody managed 10 tricks. ☹

Spring Pairs 5

This hand produced penalties all round and included three declarers who violated Burns Law (holding fewer trumps than the defenders).

♠ QJ863	♠ AKT4	♠ 75
♥ J642	♥ KQ53	♥ 97
♦ Q743	♦ K986	♦ AJT5
♣	♣ 6	♣ AKQ42
	BOARD 9	
	DEALER: N	
	VUL: EW	
	♠ 92	
	♥ AT8	
	♦ 2	
	♣ JT98753	

North usually opened 1♦ and East overcalled 2♣. This was liked by South, but not by West (who could only pass) and North re-opened with a double. East had nothing more to say and South passed with a great big smile (internally).

Clearly to West this is not a good place to rest, so some sort of rescue is needed. Three options are available – there being redouble, 2♦ and 2♠. The last we must dismiss as too committal, as partner could still turn up with four hearts and a singleton spade.

Of the other options, XX has a curious advantage. On the hand in question, where East doesn't wish to choose between the majors, East can pass the buck back by bidding 2♦ over the redouble, allowing West to choose the better major.

One pair did reach 2♠ (doubled of course) but two pairs had the redouble and then East chose 2♥ which was doubled happily by South. The defence strayed rather a lot at one table, to collect only +200 while the other defenders knew what they were doing and that was -1100.

And all because North picked off the best East-West suit with the opening bid! [How one East played in 3♣ undoubled we don't know]