

# GCBA NEWSLETTER

Season 2015-16

March 2016

## Programme

Back to four Mondays -

- Mon 7<sup>th</sup> : Open Teams 3  
*and Hosted Pairs*
- Mon 14<sup>th</sup> : Winter Pairs 3
- Mon 21<sup>st</sup> : League 8
- Mon 28<sup>th</sup> (Easter) : Spring Pairs 3

**WINTER PAIRS & SPRING PAIRS** : any pair can turn up (as can any four for the Open Teams) but if you lack a partner and are willing to be a standby, please tell Patrick and we will advertise accordingly.

Other dates for your diary

- **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March sees the next running of the Everett Cup. A special event this year to support the MINDSONG charity, with a hot meal at half time. A teams event but enter as a pair and draw for team-mates. Entry £10 per person. NOW POSTPONED. DATE TBA**
- Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April : the final of the Ace of Clubs, entrants being the qualifiers in club heats.
- Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April : the final of the County Pairs, entrants having qualified by now.
- Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July (new date) – CBC is one venues of three for the new Midlands Improvers Pairs. It is limited to NGS rank of 8, aiming at players of under 5 years experience – and includes hand commentary and discussion. More details to come later.

## Alerting Rules

Most people forget that there are some well defined, specific circumstances where one does alert bids above 3NT. The first is when this bid occurs as the first action by that player after the first bid. Initial passes are ignored; if the bidding was P-P-1N-P-4D then unless the 4D bid is natural it should be alerted. That allows the next hand, without embarrassment, to ask and make a lead directing double of a transfer. This alert is allowed because the first round of the bidding should not be (often) a subject of uncertainty and therefore alerting will not usually raise the spectre of unauthorised information.

The other class of alerts to alert above 3N is any pass, double or re-double which make a suggestion about leading some other suit than the one bid. This includes a Lightner double of a slam.

**<TO BE CONTINUED>**

### One more rule to remember

If ever your partner mis-explains (or mis-alerts or mis-announces) you are duty bound to explain the truth to the opponents – BUT AT THE RIGHT TIME.

If you are declarer or dummy the right time is after the final pass and before the opening lead is faced. If you are a defender the right time is at the end of the hand.

Don't hesitate to allow the director to sort out the consequences!

## GCBA Results

*The second round of the Open Teams was won by the team of Richard Chamberlain & Roger Jackson, Christian Fleming & Mike Wignall. They pick up a second 8 points for their team, and the teams led by Ashok Kwatra, Tony Letts and Alison Pritchard will pick up 6,4,2 points respectively. Two sessions to come.*

*The second session of the Winter Pairs went to Mick Bird & Rob Coss, followed by Norah Allen & Suzanne Griffin. Richard Chamberlain & Patrick Shields came fourth and retain overall lead in the series.*

*In League Division One, the Shields team is now 23 VPs clear. In Division Two, the two leading teams met, and Swannell beat Harrison but Harrison is still 14 VPs ahead. What was Div2 has now split into Div2 and Div3, with three matches to play. All match scores to date still count.*

*The second session of the Spring Pairs saw Paul Lilley & Mike Wignall in first place followed by Roy Collard & Pam Pearce, but overall leaders are still Tony Hill & Alan Wearmouth.*

*The Newent Bowl has 24 teams and was won by Pam Pearce & Susan Sharp, Jane Morton & Marian Wilcox.*

*The Rank Xerox teams had 7 teams entered, including for the first time Wotton. It was won by the Thribb team (Angelos Agathangelou & John Cuncer, Natalie Davenport & John Polhill, Mark Harrison & Nicky Ferguson, Steve Hobbs & Keith Patterson).*

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## External Results

*Paul Denning leads a team into round four (last 32) of the Gold Cup having beaten Walter Solomon's Devon team in round three. The Wendy Angseesing team has just been knocked out of the Silver Plate.*

*EBU Interclub Knock Out : of the 6 Cheltenham teams : in round 3 Cheltenham D (led by Paul Denning) has beaten Sansom of Worcestershire, Cheltenham E (Peter Waggett) has beaten Hereford A, Cheltenham B (Mike Lewis) have just lost to the strong Coventry-A team, and Cheltenham A (Paul Lilley) lost to Oxford's Menagerie-B. Two Cheltenham teams lost in the first NICKO round, and one of them lost also in the Plate but Cheltenham-F (Alan Wearmouth) did win a match there and are in round two.*

*Crockfords : the Constable team lost to an Avon team in round 3, and the Angseesing team lost to an Oxfordshire team. David Jones is the one county player still involved.*

*Seniors KO: the Constable team won one match and then lost one, but the Garry Watson team with Patrick Shields & Alan Wearmouth has now reached the last 16.*

*In the trials for the Welsh Seniors, Paul Denning played with Gary Jones from London and came 4th, while Patrick Shields played with Patrick Jourdain from Cardiff and came fifth.*

*In the EBU Ranked Masters Patrick Shields & partner won the top section, and Peter Shelley & partner won the National Masters.*

## Winter Open Teams

The most spectacular hand in session two was this ...

♠ A Q J 6	BOARD 26	♠ 5 3
♥ 9 6 4 2	DEALER: E	♥ A K 8 3
♦ A K Q J 8	VUL: ALL	♦ --
♣ --		♣ K Q J 7 6 4 3
	♠ K 7 4	
	♥ J T 5	
	♦ T 9 3	
	♣ A T 9 5	

North-South were silent and East-West usually started off 1♣-1♦-1♥-1♠ the last bid being fourth suit forcing, a common manoeuvre to allow responder to next show a game forcing hand with support for the third suit. East of course doesn't know this is happening, and chose an easy and natural 3♣ bid.

Those confident in their system continued 3♥ at this point but at least one wasn't sure and jumped to 6♥. Either path to 6♥ works and the play there needs care but the ♣A onside for a ruffing finesse allows it through (although two Easts went down).

One West ended in 6N and was fortunate to get a spade lead and the king emerged to allow declarer twelve tricks once the club ace was knocked out. But 6N by East got the ♥J lead and declarer could not cope.

Two tables stopped in 3N and one stopped in 5♥, but the majority bid a slam. All five matches had a double figure swing here, of either 13 or 17 imps.



## County Leagues, R7

This round completed the round robin for Division Two, and the eight teams now split into two foursomes, with those in the top (bottom) four playing against each other a second time in the last three matches. All ten results count for the overall championship. This hand from round 7 was interesting ...

	♠ Q 7	
	♥ 8 7 5 4 3 2	
	♦ 6 5	
	♣ A K Q	
♠ J 3	B1	♠ K T 5 4 2
♥ A Q J	DLR: N	♥ 9
♦ K Q J 9		♦ A T 8 2
♣ J 8 5 3		♣ 7 6 4
	♠ A 9 8 6	
	♥ K T 6	
	♦ 7 4 3	
	♣ T 9 2	

3N was not attempted often but it happened twice in the one match and at both tables North, on lead, led out three top clubs and followed with a diamond. Declarer won the king and tried the ♠J which was covered all round.

When David Jones returned a heart, declarer had to finesse and that brought the total of winners up to 8 (one spade, two hearts, four diamonds and one club).

Where could a ninth come from? At the table he did – as is often advisable in 3N – cash his winners in the boring suits (the minors here) and poor South felt the pressure rather – he ditched a spade easily but when it came to the second discard it was either a heart or a spade and they would each give declarer a ninth trick.

This game gave the Letts team a 10-imp start in the match when the squeeze was missed in the other room, but the Shields team recovered to win 15-5 in VPs.