

# GCBA NEWSLETTER

Season 2016-17

April 2017

## Programme

This month we have -

- Apr 3<sup>rd</sup> : League 10
- Apr 10<sup>th</sup> : Spring Pairs 2
- Apr 17<sup>th</sup> : Easter Pairs
- Apr 24<sup>th</sup> : Spring Teams 3

Prior entry is only needed for the League, for which this is the last match.

## GCBA WEEKENDS

In April we have

- Ace of Clubs Final taking place on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup>, at Cheltenham Bridge Club. Qualifiers from clubs should know if they are coming. The event starts at 1330 hrs.
- The Cheltenham Congress runs 28-30<sup>th</sup> of the month at the Chase Hotel. There are distinct events on each of Friday, Saturday and Sunday. See the brochure on the web site for full details.

## OTHER WEEKEND EVENTS

You can also obtain a good game of bridge in various neighbouring counties in coming months; in planning ahead you might look at

- 13-14 May has a Swiss Teams weekend at Solihull (West Midlands BC)
- 20-21 May has a Swiss Pairs followed by a Swiss Teams at the University of the West-of-England, organised by Avon CBA.
- 27-29 May has the EBU's Spring Bank Holiday congress at Stratford.
- 10-11 June has the Oxfordshire Congress taking place in Woodstock.

## EBU's Garden Cities

This competition has been running since 1987; it is an inter-club competition run initially within counties, and then with county winners progressing to one of the four regional finals, from which the top two teams progress to the final.

It is a team-of-8 competition and Gloucestershire has nearly always been represented by Cheltenham Bridge Club, but occasionally by other clubs. Clubs interested need to contact the CTD to indicate their interest, and will need a play-off with the Cheltenham entry.

Cheltenham Bridge Club won the national final in 1998 and in 1999, and had three second places in 2001, 2002 and 2003. They missed the final twice after that, and then re-started; they came 4<sup>th</sup> in 2012 and 3<sup>rd</sup> in 2013 but have not qualified for the final since then. Their next chance is on 6<sup>th</sup> May this year.

## Faulkner Salver (EBU Seniors)

This has been the EBU's knock-out teams for seniors since 2003, and there were two county teams in the 57 who entered this year. Garry Watson's team is in round 4 after two wins and a BYE, and play their fourth round match on Easter Monday.

Meanwhile, the Constable team lost in the first round but there is a repechage which got them back in, but they lost again in round 4 to Peter Shelley's Avon team (whom Garry Watson beat in round one, but they also came back).

## GCBA Results

*The final of the Winter Teams was won by Patrick Phair & Steve Evans, Roy Collard & Val Constable on a split tie. (Patrick replacing Ian Constable in round two). The Swiss Teams was won by Alan Wearmouth's team (Tony Hill, Mark Rogers, Peter Waggett).*

*The first session of the Spring (Swiss) Pairs saw 15 pairs take part and the (unbeaten) leaders were John Cuncer & Mark Rogers, followed by Roy Collard & Val Constable.*

*On the ninth match in the League the Wearmouth team had a disaster and lost 0-20 to Ashok Kwatra & David Simons, Lesley Harrison & Mike Wignall, allowing the Angseesing team to close to 1 VP behind. Meanwhile in Division Two (originally the bottom half of Div One) the leader is Mark Rogers' team, and in Division Three Wendy Angseesing's team is 14 VPs ahead of Jim Simons' team.*

*In the second session of the Spring Teams it was a win for Ashok Kwatra & David Simons, Paul Lilley & Pam Pearce ahead of Alan Wearmouth's team. But it is the Constable team leading the series overall.*

*In the County Pairs Final (8 pairs) it was Roy Collard & Pam Pearce ahead of Ian & Val Constable.*

BBO has added a wonderful new facility build around declarer play problems. Once logged in go to PRACTICE -> TRAINING TOOLS -> BRIDGE MASTER and choose the level of problems you fancy.

Ever come across this? Craftily lead diamonds after ending in three no-trumps (6)

