

GCBA NEWSLETTER

Season 2015-16

August 2016

Programme

And this month we have -

- Mon 1st : Summer Teams 5
- Mon 8th : Swiss Pairs 4
- Mon 15th : Summer Teams 6
- Mon 22nd : Summer Pairs 3
- Mon 29th : Summer Pairs 4

GCBA MONDAYS WINTER COMPETITIONS

The planning for the coming season has gone rather slowly and no details can be confirmed at this time, but we are led to believe that the pattern of recent years – with a Swiss Teams on the first Monday of the month, and the League running on the third Monday – is very likely.

CHELTENHAM YOUTH BRIDGE

This year EBED (the EBU Education and Development organisation) is not able to run its usual annual Junior Teach-In but Cheltenham Bridge Club is stepping in with a replacement event this year on the weekend of Sat-Sun 3-4 September.

It is being organised by Ro Kaye, with support of experts from around the country, and there are a myriad of tasks with which local bridge players could help. There will be ~80 juniors coming and staying at the Ladies College, along with a cast of supporting adults.

There are opportunities to help at the club, or as the children move between locations, or with the catering – please contact Ro if you have any time to offer over that weekend.

If you have (grand)children who might be interested, this is a great opportunity - there are still spaces if you contact Ro at rokaye@hotmail.com

Revoke Discovered Late !

On the way home from Ross-on-Wye, one player noticed that the opposition had revoked against his partner during the last round and the penalty should have been one less doubled undertrick. It was not going to affect the top places, but the question was asked – when is it too late for any rectification to take place?

Here's where the GCBA and the CBC stand on this question, following guidance from the EBU's White Book.

The Laws themselves tell you that once the non-offenders have called on the next hand, or the next round has started – then it is too late for rectification. But the Laws (see 64C) do allow for the Director to restore equity "if the non-offending side is insufficiently compensated" as a result of the Laws.

Next comes Law 92B which declares that the right to request a ruling ends a certain time after the official score has been made available for inspection, and that time limit for EBU, GCBA and CBC is 20 minutes.

The reason for a limit is that were the ruling to be asked for, say the day after, it would often be impossible to get agreement on the facts and there would be no satisfactory resolution.

So it is a Good Thing to spot a revoke when it happens, and have it addressed immediately.

Scoring errors – distinct from rulings – can be corrected in a slower timescale, with 8 days being generally allowed for GCBA Monday events (but less for CBC events).

GCBA Results

After four rounds of the Summer Teams, we have two individuals out in front – Tony Letts with 26 points and Mike Wignall with 20, and then comes a batch of 6 people with scores in the 11-13 range who still have time to catch Tony for first place over the two remaining sessions.

The third session took place of the Summer Swiss Pairs; in the lead and with only 1 defeat in 9 matches are Mark Rogers & Peter Waggett who are 4 VPs ahead of Richard Chamberlain & Patrick Shields. One more session to come.

We have had a second session of Summer Pairs which we lined up with the EBU Simultaneous Pairs. The best results locally were Ashok Kwatra & John Skjonnemand, or alternatively Tony Letts & Roger Schofield (when scored nationally).

In the Everett Cup we had 5 teams and the result was a decisive win for Penelope Healey & Ashok Kwatra, Peter Swales & Anne Swannell. The event was run to raise funds for MINDSONG and it generated over £130 beyond costs (all since passed on).

External Results

In the EBU Interclub Knock Out the remaining Cheltenham team has beaten West-of-England and is now in the round of sixteen.

In the Green Point weekend at Ross-on-Wye the Pairs was won by Paul Denning & Kanwar Rahim ahead of Brian Goalby & Peter Shelley; in the Swiss Teams the best local result was the Hill, Shields & Wearmouth team in 3rd place.



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Summer Swiss Pairs

Surprisingly often, faint chances work out – look at this

♠ J985		
♥ KQT963		
♦ J8		
♣ T		
♠ QT62		♠ A4
♥ AJ87	B 2	♥ 5
♦ 5	DLR : E	♦ QT972
♣ AQ64	VUL : NS	♣ KJ952
♠ K73		
♥ 42		
♦ AK643		
♣ 873		

After two passes West opened 1♣ and North interfered with 2♥; East now tried 3♥ as a cue bid showing good club support, and West finished with a gamble on 3N.

The opening lead was the ♥K (strong K, asking partner to unblock, overtake or show count) and when partner played small it was clear to leader that declarer held the AJ. So North switched to a spade run to the ♠K and a second heart came back. Ducking this would generate 5 losers so declarer had to rise with the ♥A.

At this point there is the possibility of 3 spade tricks to go with 5 clubs and ♥A, so declarer tried ♠A and ♣A next and then the ♠Q – but there was no joy. Is there any chance left?

Yes – but declarer failed to spot it – and that chance is finding the ♦J doubleton onside – which is indeed the case. Declarer does best to cash clubs first, ending with the ♣Q and stranding the last club in dummy (goes fewer down if the diamonds are not perfect) but after a diamond to the ten South will have to put dummy back in with diamonds and then the club can be cashed.

Did you spot that extra chance?

Summer Pairs

The July round was also a heat of the EBU Simultaneous Pairs, and the hands were played across the country. Here is one:

♠ A		
♥ AQT86542		
♦ 3		
♣ K96		
♠ J9752		♠ KQT4
♥ J	B 22	♥ K
♦ QT86	DLR : E	♦ A97542
♣ AT8	VUL : EW	♣ 54
♠ 863		
♥ 973		
♦ KJ		
♣ QJ732		

After East opened we had 1♦-P-1♠ and North knew where he wanted to be, and just bid 4♥. From East's perspective that was awkward, but a 6-4 shape is a bit more than usual and on the basis that either game might make, chose to bid 4♠. Before North could do so, South was in there with 5♥ and that is where the bidding ended.

After the ♠K is led to the ♠A, declarer can see there are two minor suit aces to lose and the key is how to play the hearts. With no other information, the 1-1 heart break is a 52% chance, so cashing from the top is best.

But here we know more – we know LHO must have 4 spades and RHO must have 5, to justify the bidding. And on top of that, East must have at least four diamonds and probably more. When we plug that into the odds calculation, we find that KJ doubleton onside is a 10% greater chance than singleton K offside. So the best chance is to cross to dummy in clubs and finesse the heart queen.

Today that would be a disaster, but the good news (?) is that none of the declarers in Cheltenham applied that logic – they played for the drop and wrote down 5♥ making!

Ross Swiss Teams

This weekend was successful with over 40 tables in play each day this year. The Sunday teams game was full of slam hands and success on those would give any team a lot of imps. Work out your favourite sequence on these (dealer left) before reading on ..

♠ KJ6	♠ AT87432
♥ K98764	♥ AQ
♦ QT6	♦ KJ
♣ 6	♣ A8

and

♠ KQ7	♠ AJ6
♥ 5	♥ T94
♦ AQ62	♦ 5
♣ Q9543	♣ AKJ762

The first hand bids very easily on natural methods, provided that over the 2♥ opener, East can bid a forcing 2♠. The opener is a maximum in support of spades, and (with 3♠ showing a minimum with support) can describe the hand beautifully with a 4♣ splinter. After that nothing will stop East short of slam, yet only 2/42 tables bid to 6♠!

The second hand is more difficult without methods, assuming West opens 1♣. If a 3-level jump is a splinter it provides a good start for responder, but without that you need inverted minors (the 2♣ raise treated as forcing) or a Jacoby style 2N bid showing club support.

But the key is actually opener's shortage fitting so well with the responding hand. A possible sequence is 1♣-2♣(forcing)-3♥ as a splinter by opener, after which a check on aces tells responder that small slam is enough.

With the Jacoby 2N approach, it could similarly go 1♣-2N-3♥ showing shortage. With neither of these conventional raises available, 1♣-3♦-4♥ might do the job, but if 3♦ would have been diamonds – help! System upgrade needed.

Having decided on our favoured auction, it is worth comparing with your partner and see if they match.