

# GCBA NEWSLETTER

Season 2016-17

Aug 2017

## PROGRAMME

This month we have -

- Aug 7<sup>th</sup> : Summer Teams
- Aug 14<sup>h</sup> : Summer Pairs
- Aug 21<sup>st</sup> : Summer Teams
- Aug 28<sup>th</sup> : Summer Pairs

## GCBA WINTER PROGRAMME

The details have not yet been published but the pattern will be the same as last year. The Monday routine will alternate between teams and pairs, with

- 1<sup>st</sup> Monday : multiple teams
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday : league

## BRIDGE OUTSIDE GLOUCESTERSHIRE

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

- 4th-7th September has the Oxford Bridge Festival, a varied programme of bridge events and lectures and more. A great chance to experience Oxford.
- Friday 29 September is day one of the West-of-England Congress, now held at Weston-super-mare.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS OF BIDS

The new edition of the EBU's Blue Book comes into effect on 1st August, and there is one change which affects how you announce a short minor.

It's very simple : when appropriate you must expand "could be 2" or the like into "could be 2 with five cards in another suit".

## CLEVERLY TEAMS LEAGUE

This is the new title for what was once the Clubs League. We are re-vamping it this year to make it easier for new teams and easier for players who are new to teams bridge.

The basic structure remains the same – multiple divisions and 24-board matches, more often in homes than in bridge clubs. What we intend is that some divisions become regional, so that new players don't have to face a drive the length of the county on a winter's night.

Richard Harris is taking over the organising (vmt to David Hauser for many years of work) and he can be contacted via

[ctl@gcba.org.uk](mailto:ctl@gcba.org.uk)

Entries have to be in by the 4<sup>th</sup> September to allow us to organise the divisions, and the for captains to schedule matches.

We will finish the year with a CTL day in Cheltenham in June 2018, to which all teams will be invited, and at which the game will include any play-offs needed to determine promotion from the regional divisions to the 1(2) county-wide division(s).

## BENJI OPENERS

The other significant change in the new release of the Blue Book is about the definition of "strong" and the licensing of strong opening bids. The rules are now very specific that your agreement on strength for these must have a lower limit of either (a) 16 hcp, or (b) 12 hcp and 5 controls where you count an ace as two and a king as one.

## GCBA Results

*The third session of the Summer Pairs saw a tie for first place between Ashok Kwatra & John Skjonnemand, and Tony Letts & Patrick Shields. The fourth session went to John Stirrup & Steve Sasanow, and the fifth session to John Arblaster & Mel Barlow. Across the series (not counting the Bank Holiday scores) Ian Constable shows up on top followed by Patrick Shields.*

*In the Summer Teams session three it was the Watson team by 1 imp from the Angseesing team. The fourth session had Ian & Val Constable, Toby Roberts & Allan Sanis leading by just one point from second and one more from third. Neither Watson nor Angseesing managed to clock up any points that evening but they still lead overall. Two sessions remain.*

*In the Nicko we have one Cheltenham team now in the last four, after they convincingly beat a team with three Hacketts. In the Gold Cup we have Richard Butland's team in the last eight but other county interests have gone from that (and from Crockfords and from the Seniors KO).*

In the Green Point Swiss weekend at Ross-on-Wye, the turnout was very respectable and the best results from the county were

- Pairs : Tony Hill & Alan Wearmouth came equal third and Malcolm Green & Mike Lewis came ninth.
- Teams : the Angseesings with Tony Hill & Alan Wearmouth came second (leading going into the last match but not winning by enough) and Tricia Gilham & Richard Harris, Lesley Harrison & Paul Lilley came fourth.

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## NICKO Round-of-8

Cheltenham-D played against a Manchester team in this round, and managed to get everything right while they got everything wrong. This included having a mix-up to play a cold slam in 3N to find the opponents had bid to the 50% grand slam and gone down. This was a curious hand.

♠ J5		
♥ 92		
♦ AKQT72		
♣ T65		
♠ Q986		♠ AT73
♥ KT6	B 14	♥ J43
♦ 9865	DLR E	♦ J43
♣ 92	VUL:none	♣ J43
♠ K42		
♥ AQ875		
♦ -		
♣ AKQ87		

The bidding from North-South was 1♥-2♦-3♣ and then to 3N. West had an unattractive lead and our man led the ♣9. Declarer won that and cashed two more clubs.

What became very obvious at this moment was that West's diamonds were never going to come into play. So he quickly ditched these, and when South cashed two more clubs, East joined the party throwing diamonds. It was clear to both defenders that their only hope was declarer having a 3505 shape (and no diamonds).

If declarer after this start exits in spades, the defence have to be very careful not to get end-played. East must play hearts through twice.

On a spade towards the jack, if West plays the ♠6 then the heart from East must come immediately, but if West unblocks to any extent, then East has more time to find the switch. The key is for East to count the defensive tricks, and since we can only expect three in spades, there is a need for two in hearts, and so playing that suit is necessary.

## The 2017 Laws and Comparable Calls

To allow a more useful continuation after a call out of rotation or an insufficient bid, the new laws have introduced the concept of a "Comparable Call" which can come in three shapes

- a call with a more narrow meaning than the one it replaces,
- a call with the same or similar meaning to the one it replaces
- a call with the same function as the one it replaces.

Where the offender can make a comparable call, there is a high expectation that the auction can continue sensibly, and if so then that is the best outcome. But if when doing this the offenders gain advantage, the TD always has the right to take this away (and should do so).

An example of a call with the same function is in the auction of 2N-2♣ where responder thought the opening was 1N and now asked about majors; you can replace 2♣ with 3♣ as that is also a bid with the same function.

For an insufficient bid, there is also allowance for replacing it with the lowest bid which shows the same denomination. So now, for example if the bidding went 1N-2♠-2♦ and the 2♦ was intended as a transfer by a responder who hadn't noticed the overcall, then the 2♦ bid can be replaced by 3♥ as this is the lowest bid showing the same suit.

As always the TD is the expert; this is just a heads-up – always let the TD read it from the book.

## Gold Cup

Our best local team exited from the Gold Cup to a Manchester team this month, on a very low scoring match which was all square at half time. Neither pair succeeded on this hand ...

	♠ A	
	♥ AT964	
	♦ A	
	♣ AQJT43	
♠ KQT7		♠ J865
♥ KQJ75	B 11	♥ 2
♦ K84	DLR : S	♦ Q9752
♣ 2	VUL: none	♣ 965
	♠ 9432	
	♥ 83	
	♦ JT63	
	♣ K87	

Everywhere the auction started with P-1♥ and now North had a choice, either to double or to overcall and one table chose each option.

After double and a pass from East, South bid 1♠ and now North tried 2♣. This was passed out, and on a heart lead and a second heart, North was allowed to ruff three hearts in dummy to make 12 tricks (careless defence perhaps but they were trying to beat a 2-level contract)

Both North and South might have tried harder. South is surely worth a raise when partner produces such a strong sequence, and North might have tried 3♣ over 1♠; for most this shows about 8 playing tricks and is non-forcing.

At the other tables North's overcall of 2♣ was passed back to West, who re-opened with a double. This allowed North to redouble and this got South to bid 3♣ (over 2♦) and North made one more try with 3♦ but stopped in 4♣.

Again both pairs might have bid more. here there were also 12 tricks made. The club game goes down on a club lead (but who will) while 3N is on top. Would you do better?