

# GCBA NEWSLETTER

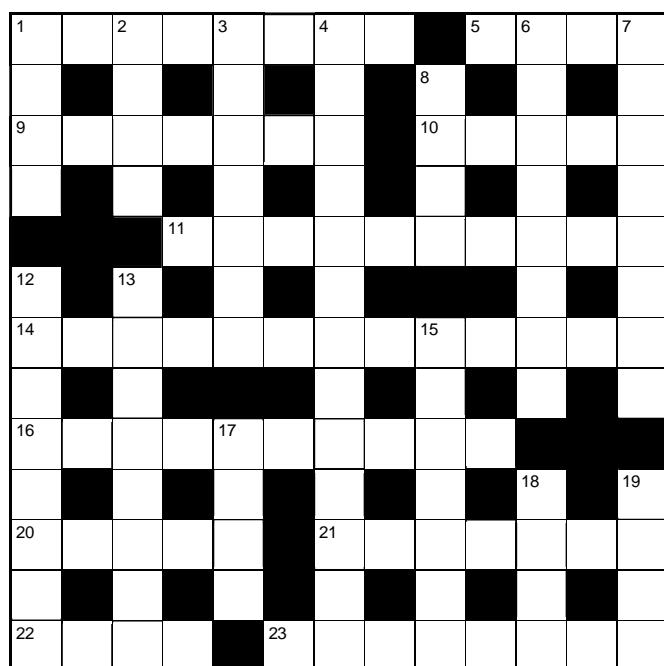
Season 2020-21

December 2020

## CHRISTMAS EDITION

Something a little different this month. A few bits and pieces to amuse you over the festive period. No prizes, I am afraid, just the warm glow you could get if you manage to solve them. Solutions will appear as [www.gcba.org.uk/Q2020A.pdf](http://www.gcba.org.uk/Q2020A.pdf) sometime on Friday 1st January 2021.

### What is the Score?



*My thanks to Richard Chamberlain for this puzzle. When you have solved the cryptic clues, four of the across answers will give you a contract, and two of the down answers a result. So what is the score?*

#### ACROSS

- 1 Sketch the underground part of a telescope (4-4)
- 5 The Spice Girls were festive leaving out Estonia (4)
- 9 May calamity befall court about misplaying tune? (3,4)
- 10 Snooker player wants a good tip here at just the right time (2,3)
- 11 Leave burn damaged around loch in an exposed position (10)
- 14 Met men cheered wildly with green drink (5,2,6)
- 16 Absolutely delighted about partner due to change (10)
- 20 Joins together suits for strikes (5)
- 21 Odd blue mixture has become twice its size (7)
- 22 Goodbye - Tibetan conceals legendary beast (4)
- 23 No charge for these programs to liberate Hertfordshire town (8)

#### DOWN

- 1 Depressed content of duvet (4)
- 2 Help a criminal with a gamble (4)
- 3 A hundred certainly means shaving the head (7)
- 4 Book on how to make chocolate cake? Right for woman in charge of the girls (7,6)
- 6 Hatch start of uprising in unruly cabinet (8)
- 7 See the height of this grill (3-5)
- 8 Number is filthy after changing hands (4)
- 12 Chromium in cheesy concoction is harsh (8)
- 13 Crying through this ruined curt date (4-4)
- 15 Put to death former husband sweet about Spain (7)
- 17 Italian sauce lacks finish - what a nuisance! (4)
- 18 Nearly escape from a biting insect (4)
- 19 The advantage of a golf club without a head? (4)

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## WORDSEARCH

D E A L E R E N I H P E S O J  
I H D J Y T C A R T N O C H T  
S E X O D E R R K O T C N B E  
C A A B U O N A O R Z L O A A  
A R P I E B O N N T B R S K T  
R T E D T B L W E S C B B H T  
D S N D A L D E K K F E O S I  
Y R A I M N I F B C C E R H T  
V U L N E R A B L E A M R I U  
S B T G G E M M R M N L A I D  
B B Y F D N O X Y E G S B L E  
U E A V I T N A Y A D E O D S  
L R B C R R D B M E T N F H U  
C D K J B A S E D A P S A R L  
N O R T H P T O I D H J W V B

The grid contains 30 words/names associated with bridge. Words can be in any direction. Get looking.

## SUDOKO

Q							6	
6		7	9				8	
					7			
A	J			8				
		Q	K		T	7		
				9			J	8
			T					
	T				K	6		A
	A							Q

Fill in the empty squares such that each row, column, and 3\*3 sub grid contains the cards AKQJT9876..

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## BRIDGE HISTORY

*Thanks to Patrick Shields for these history questions (I'm too young to know the answers)*

1. When (and bonus point for where) did the idea of stacking your cards in front of you to allow others to play the same hand first come about?
2. We often play Mitchell movements and Howell movements. In which decade did Howell produce the first table guide cards?
3. In which city did John T. Mitchell run the first instances of a Mitchell movement?
4. Who introduced the concept of vulnerability to bridge and when?

## Play Quiz

1. ♠ J984  
♥ 764  
♦ T7  
♣ T876
- 5♦ by South
- ♠ 72  
♥ AQJ3  
♦ AKQJ942  
♣

West leads the ♣K. How do you play and what are your chances of success?

2. ♠ 53  
♥ KJ764  
♦ A96  
♣ A54
- 6♥ by South
- ♠ AQ  
♥ AQT983  
♦ K842  
♣ 7

West leads the ♣Q. Trumps break 1-1. Plan the play.

3. ♠ AT  
♥ 9432  
♦ KQ64  
♣ J63
- 7♦ by South
- ♠ KQ64  
♥ AKJ  
♦ AJT987  
♣

How do you play on the lead of the ♣A?

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4.

♠ QJT5  
 ♥ J6  
 ♦ KQ93  
 ♣ 987  
 ♠ K97  
 ♥ T872  
 ♦ J8754  
 ♣ 6  
 ♠ A84  
 ♥ AQ5  
 ♦ T2  
 ♣ T5432  
 3NT by South  
 ♠ 632  
 ♥ K943  
 ♦ A6  
 ♣ AKQJ

Can you see a defence to beat 3NT after West leads the ♦5?

5.

♠ QJ863  
 ♥ J  
 ♦ 5432  
 ♣ AJ2  
 3♥x by South  
 ♠ 2  
 ♥ QT76543  
 ♦ K6  
 ♣ KQ4

East's 1NT shows 15-17 points and his double was essentially take-out. West leads the ♦J to East's Ace and you win the ♦9 continuation with your King. You play a heart to the Jack and East's Ace, who now plays the ♦Q. Play from here.

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1NT	3♥
Pass	Pass	X	Pass
Pass	Pass		

6.

♠ AK76  
 ♥ AJT2  
 ♦ K9  
 ♣ K53  
 4♠ by South  
 ♠ QJT95  
 ♥ 753  
 ♦ 4  
 ♣ AJ84

West leads the ♦Q to dummy's King and East's Ace and you ruff the diamond return. When you play trumps, they are 2-2. What is the best line of play?

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*Finally, I am indebted to Alan Wearmouth for this tale of 2 hands from earlier this year.*

## The Thin Line between Success and Utter Failure

The first offering is a real account of a hand played in Gloucestershire. Both vulnerable, the bidding proceeds 1♣ on your right and you choose to double with

♠Axx ♥Void ♦AKQJxxx ♣xxx.

It goes 1♥ on your left, Pass from partner, 1♠ from opener and you show your hand with 3♦. 4♠ from LHO is followed by 5♦ from partner. 5♠ on your right sounds serious so you pass it out and lead..?

Wow – the chance for a classic textbook lead. It looks unlikely that you have more than 2 tricks – maybe only one on the bidding. Will partner have a defensive trick or two? Unlikely when he bids 5♦. Unwilling to bear the frustration of having the beating of the hand with a heart ruff in your hand you decide to try to put partner in and lead the ♦8. Imagine your feelings when Dummy puts down

♠KQxx ♥AKQxx ♦Tx, ♣J

Imagine your feelings as declarer holding

♠T98xx ♥T ♦x ♣AKQTxx

Not imagining the 6-0 heart break, nor that LHO would under-lead ♦AKQJ declarer played small from dummy, RHO played ♦9 and when it held it was clear to give partner his heart ruff (if he'd wanted a club he would have led his smallest diamond). 1 off – a vulnerable game swing – how good is that? Do you crime declarer for not playing the ♦ten? (There's no point in not, which is a point worth remembering.)

Meanwhile, in a place far, far away (well, the Lake District) consider the following. Nobody's vulnerable, you partner passes and RHO opens 1♠. You hold:

♠xx ♥AQJxxx ♦AJTxx ♣Void

You play very wide ranging Michaels Cue Bids and can't see a better start than 2♠. LHO bids 4♠ and partner emerges with 5♥. RHO bids 5♠ which is passed out and it's your lead. Partner hasn't doubled. He might have the diamond king or a singleton diamond but it looks more than possible that he might have the ♥K. If he has clubs they are quite likely to get picked up but experience leads you to think that they probably have a big club fit as well. So what do you lead? Just like the first hand, you try a low heart to get partner in for a club ruff. Dummy shows up with:

♠A98x, ♥Kx, ♦xx, ♣ATxxx

Imagine your feelings as declarer holding

♠QJTxxx, ♥9, ♦KQx, ♣KQ9

It looks like 5♥ is going off so you need to guess the spades to make the contract, losing the two red aces. Presumably fixated with guessing the spade distribution declarer played small from dummy but partner, equally unable to believe that you might have made such a weird lead, played small from ♥Txxx and it took declarer a while to believe that their ♥9 had won the trick. Good job really because they then mis-guessed the spade and made the 11 tricks that were par.

Funny game - bridge.