

GCBA NEWSLETTER

Season 2015-16

January 2016

Programme

This month sees the start of some new competitions -

- Mon 4th : Open Teams 1
- Mon 11th : Winter Pairs 1
- Mon 18th : League 6
- Mon 25th : Spring Pairs 1

OPEN TEAMS : four sessions on the first Monday of Jan-Apr, with the top four teams scoring 8-6-4-2 points and the total of these determines the series winner. Players may switch teams any time. No notice is needed. All-play-all teams format.

WINTER PAIRS & SPRING PAIRS : two separate series of 4(5) sessions, standard match-point pairs with average of your three best scores determining the winning pair. Just turn up – mixing partners is no problem – no notice is needed.

LEAGUE : second cycle starts in Division One and we have two matches to complete the round-robin in Division Two.

Other dates for your diary

- Saturday 16th January and three Saturdays after that – training course for Directors. See Ashok for details.
- Sunday 21st February – Newent Bowl. See Newent club's web site for entries.
- **Saturday 19th March sees the next running of the Everett Cup. A special event this year to support the MINDSONG charity, and with a hot meal at half time. A teams event but enter as a pair and draw for team-mates. Entry £10 per person.**

Alerting Rules

Although unchanged for some years there is still confusion in some circumstances. The key point to remember is that alerting and announcing is there purely as an aid to “full disclosure” – a necessity in a fair game of bridge.

The balance between alerting and announcing is there only for efficiency reasons, to help the game run smoothly, and any mix-up between these really makes little difference. The only difference is that the partner of an inappropriate announcer gets unauthorised information, but it should only be in circumstances where a half-sensible partner (do we have any of those?) would know that basic part of the system anyway.

What we must bear in mind however is that failure to alert or announce sends a very strong message to the opposition that there is nothing for them to be concerned about. It says

- “this bid is what it sounds like” << CORRECT

which is very different from the common fallacy that it means

- “we have no specific agreement that this bid is special” << WRONG

So it is important whenever you have any doubt that you alert immediately (and you do not withdraw that alert – an action which sends a big, and inappropriate, message to partner).

<TO BE CONTINUED>

GCBA Results

The Swiss Teams was won by the team of Richard Butland, Diana Nettleton, Patrick Shields, Keith Stanley & Garry Watson – just 5 VPs ahead of Hill & Wearmouth, Rogers & Waggett.

The Swiss Pairs was won by Martin McWilliams and Toby Roberts (who led going into the last session) from Patrick Shields and Peter Waggett and then Paul Denning & Kanwar Rahim.

In the League Division One is being led by the undefeated Patrick Shields' team, while in Division Two the two promotion places are held by the Harrison & Swannell teams, but they have five matches still to go.

The County Individual had a lovely turn-out of 5 tables and was won by Ian Constable ahead of Richard Harris and then Roy Collard.

ACE OF CLUBS

The dates selected in October and December clearly did not work, and we are reverting to an earlier structure for this competition now.

Every club is asked to hold one or more heats from which the top half to the field qualify for the final on Sunday 3rd April in Cheltenham. The final will run 1330 hrs to 1700 hrs and will include tea & biscuits for the £5 per head entry fee.

Players must but be below National Master, and can compete in as many heats as they like, and with as many partners as they like.

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MONDAY COMPETITIONS

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Autumn Swiss Teams

Any of five teams might have won this on the last match and the eventual winners had some disasters to go with their plus scores in a 16-4 win over the Angseesing team. Board 18 was such an example

♠ JT32		
♥ JT64		
♦ QJ5		
♣ T7		
♠ Q7	Board 18	♠ K984
♥ 9752	Dealer: E	♥ AQ83
♦ K986	Vul: N/S	♦ A4
♣ A92		♣ KQ6
	♠ A65	
	♥ K	
	♦ T732	
	♣ J8543	

East, playing 5 card majors opened 1♣ and raised partner's 1♥ bid to game. Against 4♥, North led the ♠J and South won the ace and returned a diamond.

It was an unfortunate opening lead for the defence as it gave declarer two spade tricks. With no quick losers and with 7 winners outside trumps, what was needed was to play the trump suit for 3 tricks and at most two losers.

Every 2-3 trump break gives you what is needed, so the case of concern is when trumps break 4-1. If that is the case the one disaster is losing to South's singleton ♥K.

The best line is to duck one round of hearts and then lead up to the ace-queen, finessing if the next hand follows.

More declarers went off in 4♥ than made it – but one of the successes was by Wendy Angseesing, to take 10 imps off the eventual winners who took an early heart finesse and lost 3 trump tricks.



Autumn Swiss Pairs

Leaders going into the last session – Martin & Toby – lost their first match 13-7 to move back two places but they held their nerve with an 18-2 win against the new leaders and another 18-2 in the last round, to be 15 VPs clear at the end. This hand was curious as the contracts included 2♦, 3♦, 5♦ and 6♦ (once each). Martin & Toby played 3♦+2 for a joint top with one other pair and 19 match-points of a possible 20.

♠ J985		
♥ KJT8		
♦ 72		
♣ KQ6		
♠ AK6	Board 10	♠ 73
♥ 94	Dealer: E	♥ AQ632
♦ A652	Vul: both	♦ KT94
♣ A874		♣ J3
	♠ QT42	
	♥ 75	
	♦ QJ8	
	♣ T952	

It was a 1♥ opener by a certain Indian gentleman that led to the slam being bid at one table, but the other Easts all passed in first seat and with 15 hcp opposite 10 hcp it was a surprise to find only four pairs in 3N. There were nine tricks available (three in each red suit plus AK-A) but as long as the defence tackled one of the black suits, there were too many defensive tricks first.

One table downgraded the West hand to be a 12-14 1N opener and partner simply transferred into hearts and passed that out when the transfer wasn't broken (showing good heart support). That scored a healthy +140.

Playing in diamonds, declarer will take the heart finesse early and then set up the long heart with two ruffs, while drawing trumps. The defence get only a club and the ♦Q.

League 5

After five matches the first round-robin is complete in Division One and the last match saw the Denning & Shields teams play each other. The runners up in the match earned themselves 13 imps on this hand.

♠ AQ987		
♥ 8		
♦ KQ76		
♣ A42		
♠ T53	Board 7	♠ 4
♥ KQJ	Dealer: s	♥ T7653
♦ J52	Vul: both	♦ T98
♣ J853		♣ K976
	♠ KJ62	
	♥ A942	
	♦ A43	
	♣ QT	

Richard Butland opened as South with 1N showing 12-14 and Paul Denning transferred into spades via a 2♥ response. With such a good hand in support of spades, South "broke the transfer" by responding 2N and now they were on their way.

After North continued with 3♦ they cue bid a couple of times before North allowed South off the hook by bidding 4♠. But South had registered North's slam interest (from the cue bidding) and with such a good hand he moved on with 4N and then 6♠.

The lead was a club (because East had doubled a club cue) and this was run to the ♣K. With one discard on the ♣A now available for the fourth heart, Richard simply ruffed a heart, crossed back in trumps and ruffed another, before drawing trumps and claiming 12 tricks.

Exactly half the field bid the slam.