

# GCBA NEWSLETTER

Season 2016-17

January 2017

## Programme

This month we have -

- Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> : GCBA Individual
- Jan 9<sup>th</sup> : Winter Pairs 5
- Jan 16<sup>th</sup> : League 6
- Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> : County Pairs QF
- Jan 30<sup>th</sup> : League 7

The County pairs QF will allow half the field to progress to the final, which takes place on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March. Heats are also held in clubs (CBC on 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan) and players can play in as many heats as they like.

## GCBA WEEKENDS

The next event is a teams event, the Cotswold Cup, on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2017, and it deserves extra support because part of the proceeds of the event will go to the Sue Ryder Hospice.

Entry is by pairs and the entrants will form two pools, one of which will be labelled "experts". The draw will pick one pair from each pool, so that each team has a good chance of doing well.

The event starts at 1200 hrs with a brunch (including wine) and in the mid-afternoon has a break for tea and scones. The bridge will be about 36 boards and everything will be finished by 1800 hrs. [STOP PRESS: non expert pool is full]

To manage this well, we need to restrict entry to 13 teams (26 pairs), so get your entry in as soon as you can – on the board at CBC or directly by email to [ctd@gcba.org.uk](mailto:ctd@gcba.org.uk).

And you can start planning then for the Newent Bowl on Sunday the 5<sup>th</sup> March.

And many thanks during the past year of newsletters to Patrick Phair as proof-reader-in-chief.

## GCBA History

The EBU has recently made available ([online](#)) copies of all its magazines from the past, which means starting from 1946. A scan of the copies of the first two years has revealed that

- The EBU chairman from 1946 to 1948 was Gordon D. Johnstone, who lived in Gloucestershire and ran the Cheltenham Congress in those years.
- 1946 saw the England-N Ireland Camrose match played in Cheltenham. The Camrose match started with the introduction of both teams to the Deputy Mayor, and a civic luncheon.
- In 1946 and 1947 the final of various competitions (Gold Cup, Lady Milne) was built into the Cheltenham Congress. In 1947 the event ran over four days and "the conditions of play in the Town Hall, the Thirlestaine Hall Hotel, the Queen's Hotel and the "Old" Town Hall were very good". Clearly attendance was up on current levels! The report also mentions the Cheltenham Rose Bowl (still the congress Swiss Teams) and the Cotswold Cup (now run by the GCBA).

There was mention of two names we can still recognise : JN Collett who was one of the founders of Cheltenham Bridge Club, and RB Everett who gives his name to the cup played for in November last and won by the Healys with Peter Swales & Anne Swannell.

## GCBA Results

*After four rounds of the Swiss Teams, the top four teams are hived off for an all-play-all final which starts in February. The four teams who earned their places were led by Joe Angseesing, Garry Watson, Paul Denning and Val Constable. The remainder of the field have two more rounds of Swiss Teams and are led by Malcolm Green's team. New teams are of course welcome to join in February.*

*The fourth session of the Winter Pairs saw Joe Angseesing & Keith Stanley, Paul Denning & Roger Schofield get the top scores. Across the series (two sessions left) Joe & Keith now move into the lead and are followed by Alan Wearmouth & Tony Hill and then Norah Allen & Suzanne Griffiths.*

*After five matches in the County League Alan Wearmouth's team remains 11 VPs clear in Division One, while Wendy Angseesing's team is 10 VPs clear in Division Two.*

## New Year Quiz

Decide how you play these suit combinations, and then check (books or SUITPLAY or online) whether you got them right –

1. AJ92 – K654 for 3 tricks
2. AJ92 – K854 for 3 tricks
3. AJ32 – K954 for 4 tricks
4. AJ2 – K543 for 3 tricks
5. A32 – KJ54 for 3 tricks
6. AJ2 – K943 for 3 tricks

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## Winter Pairs 4

This hand illustrated that a little knowledge can be a dangerous thing. The auction was usually, from East, 1♦-1♠-2N-3N, but sometimes North, who had passed in first seat, came in on the second round

♠ T752	♠ 3	♠ AKQ
♥ A9	♥ KT765	♥ J842
♦ QT75	♦ 3	♦ AK98
♣ AT8	♣ KJ7653	♣ Q4
	B 5	
	DLR : N	
	VUL : NS	
	♠ J9864	
	♥ Q3	
	♦ J642	
	♣ 92	

When partner was silent, South chose to lead a spade and East won trick one. With four diamond tricks it looks like 9 top tricks and East started with the ♦A and then tried a second top spade. This showed up the spade split; East reasoned that with North having 12 cards not spades, North was more likely to have long diamonds, so he played a diamond to the ♦Q next and got the bad news.

Now a trick short, declarer needed to try clubs and a club towards the queen got the ♣K from North, and a second club to the queen. Now there were 9 tricks again, but declarer looked around for a tenth.

There was one possibility – an endplay on South who had 9 cards in ♦+♠ and so only 4 in ♣+♥. East cashed the third top spade and played a heart towards dummy and inserted the ♥9. North had to return a rounded suit to dummy and now dummy's aces in those suits squeezed South out of the fifth spade.

Finally the ♠T round to the ♠J and South had to give declarer the last two tricks in diamonds. Ten tricks was still below average, as those who got a diamond or club lead had an easier time.

## Midlands League

Two of our teams lost in December to Worcestershire; but the Markham team had a good win to push them to the top of their division. All the results are at the [EBU web site](#). The County gained luckily on this board in the first set.

♠ T	♠ J9	♠ AK632
♥ Q62	♥ KJ874	♥ A
♦ J62	♦ 984	♦ AKQT75
♣ A98754	♣ KQT	♣ 3
	B 6	
	DLR E	
	VUL :EW	
	♠ Q8754	
	♥ T953	
	♦ 3	
	♣ J62	

Across the 12 tables there was only one pair bid to the respectable 7♦ contract, while nine bid to 6♦ and two stopped in game. The grand slam just depends on the spades breaking 4-3 (one ruff with ♦6 and one with ♦J) but this time it didn't work. The grand slam was in the Dawes and GCBA gained 34 imps when the other three tables were all +1370 scores.

In each of the Porter and the Markham, a declarer managed to go off in 6♦; what you must do is cash only one top spade and then a ruff, and then the second ruff. If you start with two top spades you only get one ruff in dummy. One failure for GCBA and one for WCBA, so we lost points in one match and gained in the other.

Some auctions which started with 2♣ from East were terribly clumsy, but if diamonds were supported immediately, life became easy. Alternatively, 1-level openers worked too : Chamberlain – Kambites bid very naturally 1♦-2♦ and were soon in the slam, but even then they could not be sure that West didn't have a ♠Q or fourth diamond to make the grand even better odds.

## On the Internet

There is lots to read on Larry Cohen's web site, at

<https://www.larryco.com>

including some interesting analysis of bridge results. A million deals from online bridge were examined and a number of curious discoveries emerged.

- the most common contract was 3N (28.2%) followed by 4♠ (13.2%) and 4♥ (11.7%). Slams were bid on 5.7% of hands, and grand slams a tenth of that. Over 60% of contracts were at 3-level or 4-level.
- overall 1N contracts were successful 71% of the time, but they scored below average as an overcall, and clearly above average as an opening bid.
- the most common opening bids (remember this came from a strong NT world) were 1♣ followed by 1♦, taking over 40% of the openings.
- based on the average numbers of imps or match points that the pair concerned obtained, the most successful 1-level opening was 1N (expected to be 15-17 about 90% of the time) but the most successful opening of all was 3♣! But all opening bids showed a profit (and there is a hint there about getting in first).

More details on the analysis can be found from the web site at

<https://www.larryco.com/bridge-learning-center/detail/384>

We will do a review soon of on-line bridge activities. If you partake of any of BBO, Funbridge, GOTO Bridge, Bridge+More, Bridge Bandit, or others – please let Patrick know how you get on.