

# GCBA NEWSLETTER

Season 2020-21

June 2021

## GCBA RESULTS

The County Knock-Out Teams Championship was won by Patrick Shields, Dan McIntosh, Ricard Chamberlain, Garry Watson. Runners up were Paul Denning, Richard Butland, Joe Angseesing, Andrew Kambites.

Series 8 of the 9-high Swiss Pairs was won by John Polhill and Hugh Wilkinson (repeating their success of Series 7). Pauline Mussi and Jonathan Bailey finished second, just ahead of Caroline Bristol and Ruth Thomas.

### GCBA Summer Teams 1

1<sup>st</sup> : Roger Williams, Mike Wignall, Toby Roberts, Arun Nanda.

2<sup>nd</sup> : Rob Lawy, Jim Grant, Stephan Lindfors, Harry Anoyrkatis.

### GCBA Summer Teams 2

1<sup>st</sup> : Filip and Diane Kurbalija, Patrick Shields, Dan McIntosh.  
2<sup>nd</sup> : Rob Lawy, Jim Grant, Stephan Lindfors, Harry Anoyrkatis.

In this year's Pachabo competition Gloucestershire finished fifth out of twenty-six County Championship winning teams. The team was Patrick Shields, Dan McIntosh, Paul Denning, Garry Watson and Richard Chamberlain.

## GCBA COMMITTEE

At the recent GCBA AGM, Jan Kinane and Nigel Mortimer (previously seconded to the committee) were elected in their own right. Hylary Kingham joins the committee for the first time, and we also see the return of Paul Denning after a short absence. The new President is Ian Sidgwick, who has penned a few thoughts here -

## IAN SIDGWICK

At our recent AGM I had the honour to be elected to serve you as President. Patrick's sterling contribution continues as Secretary and County TD, following the completion of his third year as President.

I'm known to a number of you but by no means to all, so let me introduce myself. First a few basic facts: I'm 60 something, live near Stow on the Wold, have three dogs, two daughters and one wife! I retired four years ago having worked as Purchasing Director for the Jockey Club and before that internationally for a big pharmaceutical company.

My bridge started at school and continued at university in Leicester, then apart from a bit of social rubber in the early 80s in Nigeria, it stopped for 29 years. It restarted more or less by chance with a charity Chicago. The addiction rapidly returned! I'm a member of Northleach, Cheltenham and North Cotswolds. I oversee the Cleverly League.

The GCBA committee is very much a team where everyone's views are treated equally, so it would be inappropriate for any President to have a manifesto but I'd just like to give you a flavour of my thoughts. My chief concerns are helping more people to enjoy our fantastic game and thus provide new members for our clubs (this includes retaining the pre-COVID players that have not ventured online, as well as teaching new ones) and us getting a little closer to the clubs all round the county. I also recognise the fantastic pool of talent that exists among Bridge players. This combined with the passion for the game that I see amongst us has great potential.

## PACHABO PLAYTIME

The Pachabo is a national competition featuring the Champion teams from each County. The event is scored in a unique and somewhat quirky fashion. Half of the Victory Points are decided by IMPs in the usual way, but the other half is scored as at matchpoints where the essence is to 'win' the board. Under this method, scoring 630 against opponents 620 gets you the full 2 VPs available on each deal. This format is much more like a pairs event. I don't think these different scoring methods sit well together but it does lead to some interesting decision making. The following hand is one such example.

♠ AJ652		
♥ K92		
♦ J973		
♣ K		
♠ T87		♠ Q93
♥ A873	3♥	♥ 5
♦ A64	by S	♦ 82
♣ AQ8		♣ JT96532
	♠ K4	
	♥ QJT64	
	♦ KQT5	
	♣ 74	

You play in 3♥. West, who had opened with a weak NT, leads the ♥3. This trump lead is annoying as it means you probably won't be allowed to ruff a club in the dummy. At pure teams scoring, this would be a trivial hand: you draw trumps as soon as possible and score 4 trumps, 3 diamonds and 2 spades for 9 tricks. However, at point-a-board scoring, 9 tricks might not be enough to win you the board, particularly since there is no guarantee that a trump lead would be made at the other table.

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If trumps break 3-2 (68%) you can make a vital overtrick on the following line. Win the trump lead and play off A,K and a third spade, ruffing. Now spades are established, you play a club. If the defence plays trumps to prevent your club ruff, you just pitch your club loser on the winning spade. Unfortunately, with trumps breaking 4-1, you go down as you lose trump control. To make matters worse, teammates played in 4♣ losing 100 at the other table, so just taking your 9 tricks would have secured the 2 points on the board anyway. The form of scoring results in having to make many of these knife-edge decisions, making the game even more frustrating than usual!

## DECEPTION IN DEFENCE (Part 2)

Continuing our look at how the defence can make life a little more troubling for declarer, consider the following layout

	AQ62	
3		KT84
	J975	

This is worth learning. Declarer, with a known 4-4 fit, plays low to the Q. Look at what happens if you take your K: declarer's next play has to be the A (he cannot pick up 1084 if that is in West's hand). Then he finesses East out of the 10. Instead duck the K and play the 8. Watch declarer's eyes light up as he figures that if East has the 108 doubleton, he can pick up the entire suit by leading the J and smothering the 10. That also holds a West with four to the K10 to only 1 trump trick. So, East's play of ducking with the 8 is likely to succeed and cannot cost anything!

	AJ9x(x)			K73	
KTx		Qx(x)	AQ8		J962
	xx			T54	

The standard play for declarer is to lead low to the nine. That will work when West hold the ten and an honor. West should give declarer a choice by playing the king when declarer leads to dummy. Declarer may win and lead low to the jack the next time. Or, even better, if declarer lacks entries to run the suit, he may duck the king and lead low to the jack the next time – not taking any tricks in the suit! (The same applies if the AJ10 are in dummy without other entries – declarer may duck the king and later finesse the jack). The next several false cards are not clear cut enough to earn the label obligatory but are well worth trying.

	AKT7	
J5		Q2
	98643	

Declarer leads to the K. If both defenders follow low, declarer has no choice but to play the A next. If West plays the J, declarer may play him for the QJ5 and go back to his hand for a finesse. At least you have given him a chance to go wrong.

	AKJ642	
Q95		T2
	87	

Assume this is a suit declarer needs to run in order to make 3NT and dummy has no side entries. When declarer leads the 8, West knows the suit must run if declarer finesses the J. So, you play the Q over the 8! Declarer will be fearful of a 1-4 split and, in order to be sure of the contract, he might duck to guarantee 5 tricks. West will have stolen a trick with this false card!

In the middle game, West has to lead this suit. West should lead the queen. Declarer will almost always duck (the exception is when West is known to have the ace). Next, West leads the eight. Declarer may play him for QJ8(x) and duck in dummy. Presto – the defense takes 3 tricks!

	J96	
KT2		Q843
	A75	

This is a "Frozen suit" which means neither side can lead it without (theoretically) losing a trick. Assume West is forced to lead the suit in an end position. What should he lead? If he leads the two, declarer's natural play is the nine and declarer wins 2 tricks. He should lead the king and declarer might play him for the KQ and win the ace and lead to the jack. If West held KQ2, he should lead the 2.

	A97	
Q82		J643
	KT5	

As before, this is a frozen suit. If West is forced to lead it he should lead the queen giving declarer a choice and a chance to go wrong. The same is true if East is forced to lead the suit – lead the high honour, not low.

## PLAY PUZZLE

How might you make 2 tricks with this holding if you know that West has 4 cards in the suit (plenty of entries available)?

	A64	
????		??
	J982	