

GCBA NEWSLETTER

Season 2021-22

June 2022

GCBA RESULTS

Series Fifteen of the 9-High Swiss Pairs has just one round remaining. The field is led by Jim Berry and Cyril Green, with Rowan and Michael Lytheer in second place.

The Cleverly League day was won by 'Sharps' (Ann McCulloch, Pat Jenkins, Hylary Kingham and Susan Munday), closely followed by 'Wanderers' (David and Ruth Martel, Sarah Watson and Paul Archer).

Summer Teams 1 (F2F)

1st Paul Denning, Roy Collard, Jack Armorgie and Garry Watson.

2nd Patrick Shields, Diana Nettleton, Roger Eaton and Ted Phillips

Summer Teams 2

1st Richard Butland, Rob Stevens, Dan McIntosh and Garry Watson

2nd Rob Lawy, Harry Anoyrkatis, Jim Grant and Stephan Lindfors

Summer Teams 3

1st Dan McIntosh, Garry Watson, Graham Cornell & Richard Chamberlain

2nd Alison Pritchard, Roger Miles, Paul Spencer and Ian Sidgwick

After five sessions of the Summer Championship the leading scores are Garry Watson on 18 points, followed by Jack Armorgie & Dan McIntosh on 16 points. Too many to list tie for top pair at this time.

COMMITTEE NOTES

Following the recent AGM, members can find reports [from the President](#) and [from the Treasurer](#) on the GCBA website, along with the [list of trophy winners](#) for the last year. Ben Ritacca has been appointed as GCBA Treasurer. He replaces Mike Wignall, to whom many thanks are due for his three years of service.

The committee has made two donations on behalf of the membership in support of Youth Bridge – one to cover half the loss at the recent Wessex Junior Camp (£202) and the other to support the England Juniors for their forthcoming (mostly unfunded) matches on the International front (£380, 10% of the GCBA surplus over the past year).

Members are encouraged to partake of the first large-scale face-to-face venture in the county for over two years – the Green Point weekend at Ross-on-Wye on 23-24th July. There is Swiss Pairs on the Saturday and Swiss Teams on the Sunday, and you can play in either or both.

There is generally a shortage of bridge teachers across the country and we would welcome more teaching in Gloucestershire. EBED runs courses to help candidates prepare to be teachers, and the GCBA is willing to cover the cost of that for any of its members who wish to enrol.

COUNTY KO FINAL

The final resulted in a win for Patrick Shields, Garry Watson, Rob Myers and Dan McIntosh over Mark Rogers, John Cuncer, Ben Ritacca and Peter Waggett. Winning that entitled them to represent the GCBA in

THE PACHABO

a competition open to the winners of each county's team-of-4 championship. Gloucestershire managed a creditable 3rd place out of 24 teams, concluding a successful year for the County Representative teams as Gloucestershire had earlier won the Tollemache (teams of eight inter-counties contest).



JUNIOR TEACH IN
2nd - 4th September 2022
King's Park Conference Centre, Northampton

English Bridge
Education & Development

Join EBED for our Junior Teach-In - anyone can learn bridge, a fantastic game which is brilliant fun and also proven to benefit your maths, logic and teamwork skills!

£150 for juniors*, £180 for accompanying adults.
(discount for additional child places)

Price includes **full-board accommodation** in twin rooms, all the **bridge fun** and some exciting other activities!

Non-Residential Rate £75 for juniors, £90 for adults, including Friday and Saturday Dinner and Saturday and Sunday Lunch

Bursary fund available to enable all to attend the event - please contact us using the e-mail below for more information.
For more information e-mail joanebedcio.org.uk
To book go to <http://ebedcio.org.uk/junior-teach-in>

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IMPROVER'S CORNER

Suppose the bidding goes 1NT – 3NT and you choose to lead a low heart from the West hand below:

- ♠ KQ54
 - ♥ J7
 - ♦ AQJ2
 - ♣ KQ5
- ♠ T76
 - ♥ QT52
 - ♦ 863
 - ♣ 982

3NT by South

You are pleased to see partner produce the Ace and King of hearts at the first two tricks as you follow with another low card. Alas when partner leads a third heart, declarer shows out and you find the heart suit is blocked.

You can only take four tricks and declarer claims the rest. You may be tempted to say 'how could I tell', as it would cost a trick to unblock the ten and find declarer started with 98xx.

The key to solving this conundrum is to note the order in which partner plays his top honours. There is a play convention not widely known among bridge players but was reported from whist days around a hundred years ago.

Playing the Ace to trick one and the King to trick two should promise a holding of at least four cards in the suit. Playing the King then the Ace would be reserved for a holding of 2 or 3 cards. If this convention is being played, then it becomes easy to

know whether or not to unblock. In this case, the contract is readily defeated as you can safely throw the ten on the second heart.

NATIONAL GRADING SCHEME

The [NGS](#) has been in operation in this country (uniquely, although other countries are talking about doing the same) for nearly ten years. There is in the score of any hand or game of bridge a random element, and that will generate random fluctuations in your NGS ranking; up or down one grade is common and to be expected – but the general drift does give you an indication of how well you have been playing, over the last ~80 sessions.

The older sessions contribute less (the older half have a third of the weight of the newer half). Your grade, and how it changes with each session, can be seen by logging into your MyEBU account. If you feel the scheme is flawed or too much of a distraction, you are able to hide your grade, and ignore NGS.

A number of GCBA players have shown very positive improvements in their NGS grades over the past few months. The following have all improved by at least two grade bands: Paul Clark, Roger Eaton, Beverley Graham-Jones, Rowan Lytheer, Sarah Watson, John Stirrup, and Ron Young. Well done to all.

SOLUTION - MAY'S PLAY PROBLEM

- ♠ A3
- ♥ AQT3
- ♦ J8542
- ♣ AQ

contract 6♥ by South, lead is the ♥9

- ♠ K865
- ♥ KJ72
- ♦
- ♣ KT872

When given a problem, both on paper and at the table, one tends to think in terms of ruffing losers in dummy, whereas on many hands (this one included) you are better off ruffing dummy's losers in your hand.

Win the opening lead in hand, cross to dummy with a club to ruff a diamond. Another club to dummy for another diamond ruff is followed by a spade to dummy for a further diamond ruff with a top trump. Now ruff a club in dummy and cash trumps, discarding your spade losers. The South hand is high.

THIS MONTH

- ♠ K3
 - ♥ K92
 - ♦ 854
 - ♣ AT942
- 3N by South
- ♠ Q86
 - ♥ AQ7
 - ♦ AQJ
 - ♣ QJ83

South	West	North	East
1♣	1♠	3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

West leads the J♠. How do you play?