

GCBA NEWSLETTER

Season 2016-17

March 2017

Programme

This month we have -

- Mar 6th : Winter Teams 6
- Mar 13th : Spring Pairs 1
- Mar 20th : League 9
- Mar 27th : Spring Teams 2

Prior entry is only needed for the League, for which there are only two matches to go.

GCBA WEEKENDS

In March we have

- Newent is hosting the 39th running of the Newent Bowl, with a 1400 hrs start on Sunday 5th March. See [the Newent BC web site](#) for the entry form.
- CBC hosts the final of the County Pairs on Sunday 26th March. You should know if you have qualified but can always check with the [CTD](#) in cases of doubt. If you have qualified and are not coming, please do ensure someone knows that.

And the end of next month (April) brings the Cheltenham Congress.

Crockfords Cup

This is the EBU main Teams championship, played as knockout until the last eight and then as a weekend round-robin. There were three Cheltenham based teams in the competition this year. That led by Joe Angseesing has just lost in the third round, that led by Ian Constable did the same, but Paul Denning's team has moved into the last 32.

We have to go back to 2011 to see County players in the final, when two teams reached the final, with that including Paul Denning & Patrick Shields winning the trophy. Keith Stanley (twice) and Richard Butland are past winners.

Radio

Gloucestershire

Dominic Cotter, whose show runs daily in the early afternoon, came (as part of a visit to Tivoli) to visit the Cheltenham Bridge Club, watched a lesson being given, and talked to a number of players. It was broadcast during the next week and pulled together in the weekend slot which you can listen to (multiple segments) at

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p04s22qm>

Cotswold Cup

This is one of the longest-standing trophies in the County's set and early winners include some very prominent bridge names. This year, as has occasionally happened in the past, it was organised around a draw for team-mates and an auction to raise money for charity (the Sue Ryder Hospice in this instance).

Through the sterling efforts of Allan Sanis, we had 28 pairs organised; they kicked off the day with the draw for team-mates, an excellent lunch and the auction. Half the money collected went to the Hospice, two fifths to the buyers of the first and second teams, and the last tenth to the winners.

The event was won by John Atthey & Paul Denning, Natalie Davenport & John Polhill. But the real winners were the Sue Ryder Hospice, who received a whopping total of £896.62 as a result of the event. Many thanks must go to all those who contributed to making it such a success.

GCBA Results

The final of the Winter Teams is being led (after one session of two) by Ian Constable & Steve Evans, Roy Collard & Val Constable. The Swiss Teams is being led by Alan Wearmouth's team.

The final session of the Winter Pairs saw a win for John Councer & Mark Rogers ahead of Patrick Shields & Garry Watson. The series leaders remain Joe Angseesing & Keith Stanley, followed by Norah Allen & Suzanne Griffiths, despite the non-appearance of either pair in the final session.

After eight matches in the League the Wearmouth team is now well clear in Division One (by 18 VPs), while in Division Two (originally the bottom half of Div One) the leaders is Mark Rogers' team, and in Division Three Wendy Angseesing's team is 14 VPs ahead of Jim Simons' team. Two matches to go.

In the first session of the Spring Teams, it was close at the top with three teams well ahead of the field. Top place was Roy Collard & Val Constable, Ian Constable & Patrick Shields; and they were followed by Paul Denning's team and Alan Wearmouth's team.

Cheltenham Bridge Club will be hosting training for Tournament Directors, being run by Ted Hill from Churchdown (book a place via the EBU). It is run over four Saturdays and the dates are

9th Sept, 14th Oct,

11th Nov, 9th Dec

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Winter Teams

The first half of the final took place in February, but none of the four teams in the top section managed to avoid a disaster on this hand.

♠ J2		
♥ 8		
♦ KQ987543		
♣ 42		
♠ AQ93		♠ 86
♥ JT953	B 12	♥ K64
♦ --	DLR W	♦ AJT6
♣ AK83	VUL:NS	♣ QT97
♠ KT754		
♥ AQ72		
♦ 2		
♣ J65		

Every table saw West open 1♥ and then it was North's choice. Vulnerable against not, after they have already opened the bidding, is the least attractive time for a pre-empt but we had three instances of 3♦ and one of 4♦. East in all cases passed as a double would be for takeout. But East was soon rescued.

Twice South decided to try 3N and once the doubling had started, North had to revert to 4♦ and that went for -1100. Since the 4♦ overcall also saw P-P-X for -1100, it has to be considered that going for a mere -800 (after 3♦-P-P-X) was a success.

In the Swiss Teams section there were 8 tables played these hands and only four times did North-South play the contract; they played in 2♦x-2 which was 500 away, 3♦x-3 for 800 away, and 4♦x-4 for 1100 away. One table managed 4♦ undoubled for -400, which is actually an imp better than the par result of 430 to East-West.

Midlands League

After the February match against Worcestershire, the Markham team have won their division with a match to spare, and the Dawes team are now the only team who can overtake Warwickshire. The final match of the season is on 2nd April.

The largest gain across the three teams in the Worcester match came on board 9. Across NS and EW pairs the county produced 11 plus scores ranging from +50 to +110, and a single minus score of -110. This reminds us that the little hands count and paying attention to these matters.

The biggest loss in the match was board 4 where across the three teams the county lost 110 imps. How could that happen? Here's the hand ...

	♠ K5	
	♥ AKT8654	
	♦ 2	
	♣ A42	
♠ A7		♠ JT9843
♥ Q93	B 4	♥ --
♦ AK4	DLR W	♦ Q963
♣ KQJ83	VUL:all	♣ 765
	♠ Q62	
	♥ J72	
	♦ JT875	
	♣ T9	

At all six tables, the opposing team played in 4♠ making. Where our pairs were EW, once we sold out to 4♥ making, twice the hand was played in a part-score, and one of our pairs forgot the system and lost 500. How best to bid the hand remains a mystery: if it starts 1♣-4♥, no hand has a re-opening bid. But maybe not everyone bid 4♥ ...

Cotswold Cup

Temptation is sometimes too much to resist, and a very experienced player fell foul to that on B29 of the Cotswold Cup.

	♠ Q96	
	♥ 9753	
	♦ J974	
	♣ J3	
♠ T5		♠ AKJ42
♥ AKJT842	B 29	♥ --
♦ T2	DLR N	♦ 83
♣ K4	VUL:all	♣ AQ8762
	♠ 873	
	♥ Q6	
	♦ AKQ65	
	♣ T95	

The bidding went P-1♣-<1♦>-1♥-P-1♠-P-4♥ and sadly East could not resist showing her shape; over 4♠ West converted to 5♣. Sitting South, Richard Butland started off with two top diamonds, and then cunningly switched to the ♥6.

When the free finesse of the ♥J held there was the prospect of three heart tricks to discard East's three spades. This would allow the contract to make without the need of the spade finesse. It did however depend on being able to cash three hearts.

Declarer took some care – cashing the ♣A and then the ♣K before continuing hearts. The sight of the ♥Q failed to ring alarm bells and when the third heart was ruffed by South the contract was down.

Notice how without the (Greek?) gift of a third heart trick, declarer is forced into a winning option (either a spade finesse or ruffing the suit good). Would you have been able to resist?

Ever come across this? Copy violin piece played by quartets (9,6)