

GCBA NEWSLETTER

Season 2015-16

May 2016

Programme

And this month we have -

- Mon 2nd : Bank Holiday Summer Pairs
- Mon 9th : Swiss Pairs 1
- Mon 16th : League 10
- Mon 23rd : Spring Pairs 5
- Mon 30th : Bank Holiday Summer Pairs

BANK HOLIDAY PAIRS

will go ahead provided we have 4 tables sign up in advance. Please sign the sheet in CBC or email ctd@gcba.org.uk and watch the web site for status.

Other dates for your diary

- Sunday 5th June : County AGM and the CHAMPIONS CUP, with a 1330 hrs start.
- Saturday 2nd July for the EVERETT CUP. This is a teams competition, and you enter as a team of four. We are using the event as a fund raising venture for the MINDSONG charity.
- Sunday 3rd July – CBC is one venue of three for the new cross-county Midlands Improvers Pairs. It is limited to NGS rank of 8, aiming at players of under 5 years experience.

GCBA MONDAYS SUMMER COMPETITIONS

The pairs events get started in May, happen on the second and fourth Mondays, and run for four months. Turn up as often as you like, but try to let us know your plans for the Swiss Pairs (on the second Mondays).

The teams event doesn't start until June and is then the first and third Mondays of the next three months. You turn up as a pair and we'll organise teams on the night.

Start filling your diary.

Unauthorised Information

We wrote last month about how UI happens inevitably and mostly by accident. We said there were rules to deal with UI, and the expert on those rules is the Director. Players should always try to abide by the rules but in UI situations even the most experienced of players have great difficulty making the right judgements.

If UI arises (say a break in tempo), then it is useful if this fact is recognised and agreed on by the four players at the table. Sometime this is referred to as "reserving my rights" – although this phrase is not in the current Law Book.

When UI happens, you should bid and play on until the hand is complete. The Director should be called at the end of the hand if there was UI available to one side and it looks like the other side might have been damaged because of this. Then you must let the Director apply the Laws.

The laws around this subject have two drivers in mind when the TD needs to consider an adjustment : the first driver is to restore equity, and the second is to ensure that accusations of cheating cannot occur after the rules are correctly applied.

The drive for equity says that we must look at what would have happened if there had been no UI. The concern is where someone who received UI had a choice to make. The TD's first task is to identify all the options that person had available (choices which are illogical or contra-system are ignored). This set is called the set of "logical alternatives".

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GCBA Results

The final (fourth) round of the Open Teams was won by the team of Val Constable & Patrick Phair, Ian Constable & Steve Evans, who collect 8 points but the Angseesing team collected 2 points making them series winners with 22, ahead of 4 teams with 12 points.

The final (fourth) session of the Winter Pairs saw a win for Martin McWilliams & Toby Roberts, followed by Paul Lilley & Mike Wignall but the 58% achieved by Joe Angseesing & Keith Stanley gave that pair the series win.

In League Division One, with one match to go, the Shields team is now 25 VPs clear in Division One. In Division Two, the Harrison team is 13 VPs ahead of Swannell and plays them in the last match. Both of these teams have guaranteed promotion for next season.

The fourth session of the Spring Pairs saw a win for Joe Angseesing & Keith Stanley, but Tony Hill & Alan Wearmouth hold on to top place in the series (one session to come).

The final of the Ace of Clubs had 14 pairs from 4 clubs, and the winners were Robert Macrae & Lesley Mitchell from Chipping Campden, followed by Ralph Brooks & David Cook (who, as leading non-Regional Masters, win the Leonard Cup).

The final of the County Pairs was won by Ian & Val Constable, ahead of Tricia Gilham & Richard Harris and then Angelos Agathangelou & Alison Pritchard. These three pairs will represent GCBA in the EBU's Corwen Trophy in June.

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External Results

EBU Interclub Knock Out : of the original six Cheltenham teams, only one is left. In round 4 Cheltenham D (led by Paul Denning) has beaten West of England to reach the last 32 and now plays Exeter; Cheltenham E (Peter Waggett) lost to Trowbridge.

GOLD CUP : the team with Paul Denning, David Jones, and Patrick Shields has won their round four match and now have to play Janet De Botton's squad in the round of sixteen.

EBU Seniors Knock Out : the team with Patrick Shields, Garry Watson & Alan Wearmouth was beaten by John Sansom's Worcestershire team.

EBU Simultaneous Pairs

Malcolm Green & Mike Lewis came 1st out of 510 pairs on Thursday 7th April, playing in Wantage. Well done!

Dan McIntosh, playing in Guernsey, came first on the Wednesday heat.

MIDLANDS LEAGUES

After the last match, the DAWES team have come 2nd in their division (previous year 8th), the PORTER team have come 2nd (prev 3rd) and the MARKHAM team have come 4th (prev 3rd).
Well done to all.

GARDEN CITIES

Gloucestershire are being represented in this by the Cheltenham team led by Malcolm Green. We wish them the best of luck in the Regional Final in Bristol on Sat 7th May.

Winter Open Teams

This hand came up in the last session and was handled well by most players.

♠ Q74	♠ AJ3	♠ K982
♥ KJ532	♥ T4	♥ Q9876
♦ 7	♦ AKQJ9	♦ 6
♣ T872	♣ K93	♣ QJ4
	BOARD 9	
	DEALER: N	
	VUL: EW	
	♠ T65	
	♥ A	
	♦ T85432	
	♣ A65	

The bidding most commonly started with 1♦ from North, and a 1♥ overcall, followed by vigorous support in diamonds from the South hand. The 1♥ bid is pushy but passing can sometimes make it very difficult for fourth hand to compete, so bidding is encouraged and at the one level it doesn't promise a lot.

The final contract was usually 5♦ but for reasons not yet understood 5 tables out of 12 reached the slam level. The key to the hand is the spade suit, and the question is how best to play that combination.

The answer is not to play the suit! On a lead of any other suit, draw trumps, eliminate hearts and exit with three rounds of clubs. When the defence have to broach spades you are guaranteed two tricks in the suit, which is what you need to make 5♦.

The same hands were played in the CBC club pairs the same evening, and the experience of the GCBA players showed through as only one of them held themselves to 10 tricks, while in the club session only 2/7 made 11 tricks.

Unauthorised Information (part 2)

The second driver now pushes us to choose from those logical alternatives, one that cannot allow any accusation of cheating. The Laws do that by insisting that the choice made is not one suggested over another by the UI which was present. In that way the recipient of the UI can be guaranteed not to have taken any advantage of the misfortune of having UI made available to them. So there can be no accusation of cheating.

The correction which the laws enforce is not the "best" bid or the "most popular" bid or the "intended" bid – the law simply says that the choice must not be a choice encouraged over another choice by this particular unauthorised information. If the "best" bid is suggested by the UI, but there is a logical alternative (this means an option considered by the peers of the player concerned, and adopted by some of them), then the "best" bid is not allowed. You can be unlucky here, but these rules are best for the game of bridge – so we must accept this gracefully.

The unauthorised information sometimes points in one direction, but sometimes in two or more directions. In the latter case it might not favour any of the logical alternatives, and so the Laws impose no restriction.

Most commonly, a pause from partner (as UI) suggests values or doubt and encourages further bidding. But this is not always true – so we cannot ever say "your partner hesitated, you must pass". Interpreting what some particular UI encourages is tricky, and the experience of the EBU directors over many years has allowed the EBU to publish useful guidance to its TDs, which we follow in the GCBA.