

# GCBA NEWSLETTER

Season 2016-17

May 2017

## PROGRAMME

This month we have -

- May 1<sup>st</sup> : Bank Holiday Pairs
- May 8<sup>th</sup> : Spring Pairs 3
- May 15<sup>th</sup> : Spring Pairs 4
- May 22<sup>nd</sup> : Spring Teams 4
- May 29<sup>th</sup> : Bank Holiday Pairs

The Spring Pairs is Swiss Pairs and advance notice for new pairs would be helpful.

## GCBA WEEKENDS

In May we have

- County AGM and the Champions Cup : Sunday 21st May starting at 1330 : entry to the bridge is free, you just have to turn up for the AGM. The bridge is free as is the food, and there will be prizes in multiple categories. **You won't often get an offer like this!** There will be a standby partner, so you can come to the AGM by yourself if you want to, and still play.

## OTHER WEEKENDS

You can also obtain a good game of bridge in various neighbouring counties in coming months; in planning ahead you might look at

- 13-14 May has a Swiss Teams weekend at Solihull (West Midlands BC)
- 27-29 May has the EBU's Spring Bank Holiday congress at Stratford.
- 10-11 June has the Oxfordshire Congress taking place in Woodstock.

The County Markham team, having won its division, will play in the National League Play-Offs in Solihull on the 9<sup>th</sup> of July. We wish them well.

## The Gold Cup

This competition has been running since 1932; none of our current squad have been playing in it since the start, but Derek Rue can remember reaching the quarter-finals in 1968 (with David King, Thora Jessop & John Hepworth). It is a team-of-4 competition but teams can have up to 6 players. Matches are arranged at mutual convenience - 32 bds in early rounds, increasing through 48 to 64 boards in the late stages.

Gloucestershire doesn't have a big entry, but made up 3 teams and 2 part-teams in this year's event. Of those two went out in an early round, and from them Wendy Angseesing's team is still engaged in the consolation event, the Silver Plate. In the main event, the Atthey-Chamberlain-Denning-Shields team has reached the last 16, as has the team in which Richard Butland plays.

Entries for next year's event close on 5<sup>th</sup> June, so you need to start looking around now for team-mates.

## Cheltenham Congress Winners

Pride of place goes to Ashok Kwatra & David Simons who won the Swiss Pairs (first out of 99), closely followed by Diana Nettleton & Keith Stanley who won the Mixed Pairs (first of 30) and also won the Mixed Teams (1<sup>st</sup> of 15, with the Angseesings). Ester Devereux & Daphne Smith own the Ladies Pairs. Paul Clark & John Skjonnemand won the Mens Pairs. Marilyn Jones & Doug Quine won the Rolf Garside Trophy.

## GCBA Results

*In the second session of the Spring (Swiss) Pairs there were 13 pairs and the unbeaten leaders (John Councer & Mark Rogers) retained that status, followed by Roy Collard & Val Constable (who have lost one match). Both are well clear of the rest of the field.*

*In the final match of the League, Division One leaders Wearmouth were overtaken by the Angseesing team (past winners many times, now with help from Garry Watson), while in the other division perennial leaders Wendy Angseesing were overtaken by Jim Simons's squad (Richard Croot, Noel Downes, Nigel Edmondson, Patrick Phair, Paul Smith) in the last match.*

*In the third session of the Spring Teams it was a win for Tony Hill & Alan Wearmouth, Mark Rogers & Peter Waggett. The second team was led by a scratch partnership of Ro Kaye & Garry Watson. Over the series, it is the Wearmouth team leading with 18 points, followed by Constable team with 16 and the Denning team with 8 points. [You score 8 for first, 6 for second ...]*

*In the County Knock-Out Final it was a large win for Joe Angseesing & Richard Chamberlain, Richard Butland & Paul Denning over Mark Rogers' team.*

### HAND OF THE DAY

There is a new hand added to the web site daily, either a problem for you to solve or a story from a recent event. Do go browse.

Ever come across this? Follower of convention with bids yet to be arranged (7)

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## Midlands League

Many hands were reported on the web site (see Hand of the Day) but here is one which slipped by that discussion ..

♠ AK7653	♥ A8	♦ 952	♣ KQ
♠ 98	♥ KQT43	♦ A8	♣ JT76
♠ QJT2	♥ J5	♦ KT74	♣ A54
B 8	DLR W	VUL:none	
♠ 4	♥ 9762	♦ QJ63	♣ 9832

It seems strange to be reporting a hand on which all 11 tables played in spade and all made 11 tricks. Quite a pleasant surprise!

The bidding was straightforward, usually without NS intervention, and left North leading the ♥K and declarer winning with the ace. What is neat about this hand is that there should be no alternative lines of play.

Declarer can see the heart loser from hand being discarded on the third club. For safety, trumps must be drawn first; that is tricks two and three, and then unblock the clubs, cross to a third spade and take the discard, and finally ruff the last heart.

Now come the question of how to play the diamond suit. The onside ace gives an 11<sup>th</sup> trick but playing small to the ten will guarantee an 11<sup>th</sup> trick no matter where the diamond ace is. Anyone who failed to spot this and rose with the ♦K would actually have made an overtrick. But they should not have been given the option, for North should have played the ace on the first lead and then exited in diamonds! Back to 11 tricks.

## Spring Swiss Pairs

This wild hand from the Spring Teams was handled well by many ...

♠ J653	♥ AK2	♦ Q6	♣ KJ54
♠ 7	♥ T9764	♦ AKJ8753	♣ --
B 11	DLR : S	VUL: none	
♠ AKQ84	♥ Q3	♦ T	♣ AQT87
♠ T92	♥ J85	♦ 942	♣ 9632

It all started very quietly for West with a 1N opener and there were a variety of North choices. The lowest was 2♣ showing hearts and another. But others included a more sensible 4♦ and even one 5♦. Over 2♣, East had time to show clubs and spades, and to hear support. If North now came alive with diamonds then East knew what to do, and ended in a black suit slam.

Slam is not certain, since a club ruff at trick one will defeat East in 6♠. Neither of the two Easts as declarer in 6♠ suffered that fate, perhaps because neither North made a Lightner double of 6♠ asking for an unusual lead.

Only one table did not play this hand in a black suit, and that was when North bid 2♣ initially (hearts+other) and then East chose to settle it all with 4♠, and doubled when North now tried 5♦. West felt unable to argue, but +300 wasn't great when you have a slam to make.

Where North's initial action was 4♦ or 5♦ – what can East do? It is very difficult to involve partner in any decision. Blasting a slam might find there are two missing aces. You find you have to settle for bidding 4♠. It is worth a look at pre-empting high next time you have 12 cards in two suits.

## Lady Milne

The Home Countries Women's international took place in April in Wrexham. This hand was an important part of England's first match win over Scotland (who ended in second place behind England).

♠ T97	♥ K832	♦ 98432	♣ A3
♠ AKJ542	♥ 92	♦ T	♣ K852
B 24	DLR W	VUL:none	
♠ --	♥ QJT654	♦ AQJ765	♣ 4
♠ Q863	♥ A7	♦ K	♣ QJT976

Every table saw North open 1♠ and East bid 2♠ showing a two suiter with hearts. South was clearly going to game in spades at this point and choices includes 2N (still Jacoby for some, spade support after the intervention), 3♥ showing a good raise, and a rather pessimistic 4♠ (three times!).

The last choice found one table passed out (making), and two who bid on to 5♦, one of whom was doubled (making+1) while the other led to 5♠-1. That was one double game swing notched up (14 imps for Northern Ireland). In the three cases where South showed strength, East-West bid up to the six level and played there. WBU in 6♦ cashed the trump ace and that was 12 tricks, to gain them 14 imps.

For England in 6♥ doubled, Fiona Brown won the club lead, drew trumps and cashed the diamond ace. For Scotland in 6♦ doubled, Liz McGowan won the club lead and finessed in diamonds, going one down. This decision seems an odd choice when South didn't splinter, and cost 13 imps (exactly the margin of England's win).