

# GCBA NEWSLETTER

Season 2017-18

May 2018

## PROGRAMME

For this month we have -

- Mon 7<sup>th</sup> : BH Pairs
- Mon 14<sup>th</sup> : Spring Pairs 4
- Mon 21<sup>st</sup> : Spring Teams 5
- Mon 28<sup>th</sup> : BH Pairs

Starting in June we have three months of the Summer Pairs and Summer Teams. In both you can play with different partners every session, and the more times you turn up the better chance you have of winning.

## GCBA WEEKEND PROGRAMME

The next event for the GCBA is the AGM and the Champions Cup. This pairs event is on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May after the AGM which starts at 1330; the bridge & food is free – do come along.

The AGM is preceded at 1200 hrs by a meeting to which all clubs have been invited, to discuss the relationship between clubs and the county association, including the support the county can provide to clubs. Anyone interested in the topic is welcome.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> June we have a new special event specially for those who play in the Cleverly Teams League. It will be a multiple teams game for the majority, and will incorporate play-offs for the top teams in each regional division to determine promotion for next season. All current players – and prospective players - are welcome to come along.

## BRIDGE AROUND GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Coming up in May ...

- 19-20<sup>th</sup> : Avon Green Point weekend, at the University of Bath.
- 26-28<sup>th</sup> : The EBU Spring Congress, Stratford.

## TEACHING BRIDGE

The County has recognised two responsibilities it has with respect to the teaching of bridge. The first is to the population at large – ensuring that bridge teaching is available; and the second is to bridge teachers, to help them in delivering a high quality service.

The County Association has never yet had any formal contact with its bridge teachers, and we need to make contact in order to discover (a) to whom we can refer learners, and (b) if and how the county can help them.

So we have two pleas to make at this time

- (a) for anyone who knows of an active (or keen to be active) bridge teacher in the county, can you please send contact details to [teachers@gcba.org.uk](mailto:teachers@gcba.org.uk), and
- (b) if you are a bridge teacher in the county, can you drop a line to the above email address, telling us what makes your life as a bridge teacher easy and what makes it difficult.

The final Midlands County League match was against Oxfordshire and we had a 16-4 win for the Dawes team, but a 7-13 loss for the Porter team and a 6-14 loss for the Markham. The outcome was that in the Dawes we came second for the third year running, only 4 VPs behind Warwickshire (after 12 VPs behind them last year and 35 behind them the year before that), and in the Porter we came second only 5 VPs behind Oxfordshire; we were 4<sup>th</sup> in the Markham. Our last wins were the Dawes in 2008 and 2009, and the Markham in 2017.

## GCBA RESULTS

*The third session of the Spring Teams was won by Tony Hill & Alan Wearmouth, Mark Rogers & Peter Waggett (scoring their first points at their fourth attempt, so never give up!). The team led by Tony Letts still holds the lead with 17 points, ahead of that led by Patrick Shields (16 pts).*

*The second and third sessions of the Spring Swiss Pairs took place in April, with the best scores on each session being John Councer & Mark Rogers (47 VPs) and Roy Collard & Val Constable (50 VPs) but the overall leaders remain Joe & Wendy Angseesing followed by Ian Constable & Lesley Harrison.*

*Division Two of the County League was settled in the final round when Mike Lewis' team (staffed by John Councer & Nicky Ferguson, Anne Swannell & Roger Williams) won their match 18-2 to go ahead of Mary Jones' team.*

*In the Ace of Club final, there were 20 pairs from four clubs and the winners were Steve Betteley & Kristian Cole ahead of Robert Moore & Mary Portman and then Jaimie Mussi & James Wellsted.*

### **And differently .....**

*Over the Youth Bridge weekend there were two main pairs events and the top scorers in these were many youngsters - Jack & Kavinthan, Andy & Oscar (who will be playing in the England U-16 team in China), Jacob & Thomas, and William & Zahir.*

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## GARDEN CITIES REGIONAL FINAL

After an internal heat, a team-of-8 from Cheltenham BC went forward to represent the County in Bristol, but they failed to deliver the goods, and will not progress to the National Final. This hand is one chance lost....

♠ AQ73		
♥ JT6		
♦ AK74		
♣ 98		
♠ T9		♠ 652
♥ KQ975	B 18	♥ 8432
♦ Q8	DLR E	♦ J96532
♣ J652	VUL: NS	♣ --
	♠ KJ84	
	♥ A	
	♦ T	
	♣ AKQT743	

Three different opening bids were reported – East passed at two tables but opened 2♦ at one and 3♦ (!) at another. Over the last of these South had little choice but to try 5♣ and duly did; North took a very good view in raising to slam and they played 6♣ making exactly.

Over 2♦ there was a chance when our South chose to double, but North's 3N rather cramped the auction. South however did a partial rescue by bidding 6♣ and made 12 tricks.

Where East passed, South opened 1♣ and North showed diamonds at one table, spades at the other. Over 1♠ our team bid 4♦ to show support and a shortage and North took control with 4N. Over the response showing ♣A and ♠K, North just bid 6♠ where bidding 5N to tell partner we had all the key cards would have allowed South to bid the grand slam.

When the opponents had a free run and opened 1♣, they only got to 4♠. We didn't ask them how. Would you have sailed into one of the three viable grand? 6/16 tables bid a grand.

## Cleverly Teams League

In the revamped CTL, we moved up from 17 teams competing to 24 teams this year, in four divisions, and the winners are as follows -

Division 1 : WANDERERS, captained by Mike Lewis with Malcolm Green, Dave & Ruth Martel, Anne Swannell & Roger Williams. They moved up from 5<sup>th</sup> place last year, and lost only to Stroud M, the runners-up, led by Alison Pritchard.

Division NW : EDF ENERGY B, led by Glenn Bourne with Elizabeth Bourne, David Simpson & Richard Wall. They had come down from Division 1 and were undefeated this season. The runners-up were HOT MUSTARD, a new team from Tewkesbury BC whose only loss was to the winners.

Division NE : PEAR JARS, led by Pat Emery with Alan & Judy Richards & Andrew Shields (a new team from Cheltenham), and just behind was Paul Norris' new Chipping Campden BC team which included Marion Gilbert, Jay Norris & Maki Sutton.

Division S : NYMPFIELD led by Richard Gwyer with Sydney Gwyer, Tom Hanwell & Lesley Bennett won the league by a big margin and the one remaining match will determine whether Acolytes or Wotton Wildcats will come second.

The closure of the season comes with the game on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June. While built around the CTL teams, any pair whose team cannot attend is welcome to come along, and we will make up teams on the day. The event, at Cheltenham Bridge Club, starts at 1330 and the £5 per head entry includes your tea and cake. Do come!

## Best Conventions (8)

Number nine on my list of "must have" conventions is a forcing raise of partner's opening suit bid. This most commonly goes by the name "Jacoby" after the man who publicised the use of a 2N response over a 1♥ or 1♠ opener as a forcing raise. This works well because 2N in a natural sense will usually frustrate constructive bidding, and there are always other ways to handle invitational strength balanced hands.

Jacoby is most commonly played as game forcing, although it can be used as game try or better, allowing you to stop in the named suit at the 3-level. Having heard about support, there are two key pieces of information the partners need to exchange next – these are about strength and about shape. The simplest scheme distinguishes in the response to 2N between a minimum hand (bidding 3♣ with that) and a better than minimum hand (bidding a short suit or the opened suit with short clubs or 3N with no shortage).

Although many play Jacoby only over a major suit opening, the same difficulties and the same opportunity exist over a minor suit. The only downside here is that a 3N contract might be played from the wrong side, so it is used only on such distributional hands as are very unlikely to end up in 3N. The same style of responses can be applied.

Some game raises are still better handled by a splinter bid; where it could be that or a Jacoby 2N, the key question is how completely and honestly the splinter described the hand. If ideal, then use it but otherwise use 2N to allow more time to explore.