

GCBA NEWSLETTER

Season 2016-17

November 2016

Director's Corner

Programme

This month we have -

- Mon 7th : Winter Teams 3
- Mon 14th : Winter Pairs 3
- Mon 21st : League 4
- Mon 28th : Mixed Pairs

The teams are allocated for the League, but for other teams events you just turn up as a foursome, although warning to the CTD (ctd@gcba.org.uk) for any Swiss event is very helpful. For the pairs events, just turn up as a pair.

GCBA WEEKENDS

The next event is, on Sunday 6th November, the Everett Cup. It is a teams-of-4 event and about 30 boards in length, running 1330 through to no later than 1830. The entry fee is £7.50 per person to include your tea.

The next one after this is another teams event, the Cotswold Cup, on Sunday 5th February 2017. It's never too early to go hunting for the best team-mates!

EBU COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

As always the first round of this - the Tollemache qualifying - comes up in November. The County team has as its captain this year ROY COLLARD, and we wish him all the best with

Joe Angseesing & Keith Stanley
John Atthey & Paul Denning
Richard Chamberlain & Patrick Shields
Tony Hill & Alan Wearmouth

in the heat in Birmingham on 19th-20th November.

One common occurrence which is often mis-handled because of a table's failure to call a Director, is when, in the middle of the play, someone makes a lead out of turn.

As always after an irregularity, the first task **is** to call the Director, who will proceed through the following steps

1. Confirm that the lead was made of the player's own volition, and not at the suggestion of the opponents. If you were prompted to go wrong, then the card is retracted with no penalty.
2. Ask the next hand (but declarer if dummy was next) if they wish to accept the lead.
3. If not accepted, but it was declarer who led out of turn, give the same option to the second defender.
4. Only once those offers are refused can the person really on lead proceed.
5. In the case of a defender's lead out of turn, the card led wrongly becomes a major penalty card and the various penalty card options come into play before the other hand leads. [Details next month]
6. In the case of a declarer's lead out of turn, there is no penalty - the card is replaced and the lead is made from the correct hand.
7. If the validity of the result at the table might have been compromised, then the director should be called at the end of the hand.

GCBA Results

On the second round of the Swiss Teams, there were 13 teams (two new) and after four matches the team of Joe Angseesing & Richard Chamberlain, Christian Fleming & Mike Wignall has created a decent lead, 13 VPs ahead of the teams led by Paul Denning and by Paul Lilley, after which many more teams follow.

In the second session of the Winter Pairs, the top scorers were Norah Allen & Suzanne Griffiths ahead of Tricia Gilham & Richard Harris, and then Joe Angseesing & Keith Stanley. Across the series, the leaders are now Norah & Suzanne, followed by Tony Hill & Alan Wearmouth.

The County League has 14 teams, with 8 teams in Division One this year. After two matches the leader in Division One was Alan Wearmouth's team on 37 VPs, and in Division Two was Peter Swales' team on 33 VPs. The two leading teams won their third round matches also to retain those slots, and are now on 50 VPs and 53 VPs respectively.

In the County Knock-Out there were eight teams, who each played a 28 board match, and from that four teams have proceeded to the Knock Out stages; these have captains Joe Angseesing, Peter Waggett, Malcolm Green, and Tony Letts.

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Winter Teams 2

Only a single team remains undefeated after four matches, and only one other has three wins. The session was light on slam hands for most people, the set of extra boards in the threesome having more good slams than the other 28 boards. It was surprising to see three tables not reach a slam on this deal (B4, rotated)

NORTH		SOUTH	
♠ AKQ5	B 4	♠ J8	
♥ K8	DLR: W	♥ AQJT6	
♦ 654	VUL: all	♦ KQJ93	
♣ AK83		♣ J	

The natural start is 1♣-1♥-2N-3♦-3N after which South should not be willing to stop. Bidding 4♦ seems best and over that the control rich opener – who admittedly cannot count the tricks - should bid 4♠ as an encouraging cue bid and now South will take control somehow and bid the slam.

With only 75% of the field getting that hand right, the ease with which avoiding howlers can produce a good score should be clear. A hand we don't often see came up later ... when on B25 West held

♠ 9875432 ♥ AJ9865 ♦ - ♣ -

and usually heard the auction of 1N-P-P. A hand with a 7600 shape occurs 1 in every 20000 hands, so if you see fifty deals a week (two sessions) then you should see such a hand, on average, once every two years.

With such a shape one should not – as happened at three tables – allow the opposition to settle in 1N, 2♦ or 3♣. This happened at 3 of the 12 tables during this session. Here you need to show a two suiter and if you can get any life out of partner, then insist on game.

If you avoided just these two howlers you would expect to be in the top half of the field. Isn't this game easy?

Winter Pairs 2

Not a single slam hand! But B23 offered a chance to show good technique; the auction was commonly 1N from South and then P-2♦-P-2♥-P-P at which point East should try 2♠, and will end in 3♠. The lead is the ♣K. How should East proceed?

♠ 6		♠ 6
♥ AKT732		♥ AKT7542
♦ 984		♦ KQ9873
♣ T54		♣ K62
♠ Q9854	B 23	♠ AJT72
♥ 98	DLR: S	♥ Q5
♦ AJ2	VUL: all	♦ Q753
♣ A63		♣ 87
♠ K3		♠ QJ9752
♥ J64		♥ 9
♦ KT6		♦ AJT5
♣ KQJ92		♣ 85

Ducking this is, as usual, best as it will cut the opponents' transport in that suit. If a second club is played, you win the ace, but you should not rush to take the spade finesse.

Try a heart first and see what you learn. When North rises with the ♥K you can place the ♥A, and now there are only 13 hcp free for South to hold for the opening bid, so you know the ♠K is wrong.

Can you take advantage of this? You might. A second heart or a club from North at this point lets the contract make. On either, declarer can eliminate both those suits before playing ♠A and ♠J – at which point South will be end-played to lead from the ♦K. This lets 3♠ make.

Can North tell? The key question is whether a club or a heart generates any tricks. the answer is it does not – any tricks in those suits are already winners. To generate the 5th defensive trick, North must lead diamonds, and another when in with the ♥A. Then 3♠ goes one down.

League 3

This monster hand occurred on the Halloween night League game, and five matches experienced double figure swings.

♠ AK8		♠ 643
♥ 6		♥ AKT7542
♦ KQ9873	B 3	♦ 642
♣ K62	DLR: s	♣ --
♠ T	VUL: EW	
♥ QJ83		♠ QJ9752
♦ --		♥ 9
♣ AQJT9743		♦ AJT5
		♣ 85

All Souths opened but often 2♠ with a hand which is enormously stronger than some of the weak hands which would merit a 2♠ opener in this position and at this vulnerability.

After West had bid as many clubs as (s)he dared – normally 4♣ – North would support spades but in many cases preferred to defend at the 5-level rather than chance going down in 5♠. This was a view more strongly held when East came to life in fourth seat with hearts, as it wasn't clear what sort of fit there was there.

Top NS scores go to 5♠ making from South when West led small in partner's suit and didn't get a diamond return, and to 5♦ making when South opened 1♠ and then supported partner's 4♦ (over West's 4♣ and a silent East).

Top EW scores go to the two teams playing in 6♥ by East, making with an overtrick. The teams leading the two Divisions scored +17 and +15 imps on this board, and the Division One leaders would have lost their match without it!

The one maxim that comes to mind from this hand is "if in doubt, bid on". Often best on these big hands.