

# GCBA NEWSLETTER

Season 2017-18

Nov 2017

## PROGRAMME

For this month we have -

- Nov 6<sup>th</sup> : Winter Teams 3
- Nov 13<sup>th</sup> : Winter Pairs 3
- Nov 20<sup>th</sup> : League 4
- Nov 27<sup>th</sup> : Mixed Pairs

## GCBA WINTER PROGRAMME

Our next weekend event is the Everett Cup on 5<sup>th</sup> November. This is played as a teams competition but you turn up as a pair and draw for team-mates. The cost of £15 per pair which includes your afternoon tea. The event starts at 1330 and should finish before 1800 hrs. Please try to come along.

Later in November, on the Saturday 25<sup>th</sup>, we have a non-expert pairs competition, being run in parallel with heats in other Midlands towns. We play the same hands in all locations and there are commentaries on the hands provided by Darren Evetts. The entry fee is again £15 per pair, to include your afternoon tea. It's a great excuse to spend a day in Cheltenham.

## BRIDGE OUTSIDE GLOUCESTERSHIRE

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

- Llangollen Swiss Teams on the weekend of 25-26 November – [details at the NWBA website.](#)
- Porthcawl Congress on 1-3 December, details at the EWBA web site.
- Midlands Congress, 5-7 January at the WMBC in Solihull, details on the Warwickshire web site.

## DIRECTORS' THOUGHTS

A question came up at a recent directors' discussion about how to react when someone makes a mechanical error (say, leads out of turn) and someone suggests just ignoring this and continuing.

This is an awkward position because there are times in serious competition when it would be wrong to ignore the infraction, and there are occasions also when later in the hand repercussions arise for which there is no easy answer in the rules – all because the Director was not called at the earlier time.

We need to avoid the issue of being selective in applying the rules as this creates bad feelings and does not provide a level playing field. The only answer is to apply the rules consistently (by calling the Director), and to show good grace in accepting that when we make a mistake there is a cost to bear. Consider, for example, were a player to forget to draw the last outstanding trump, and had a winner ruffed as a result - we would never consider telling them to go back a trick. Why should leading from the wrong hand or failing to follow suit be any different?

The bottom line is that in any session there will be plenty of mistakes we make, and we should not treat "non-bridge" errors any different from our other mistakes. [One option to note is that the Director has the right to waive any penalty, but the Laws say that only the Director can do that! This should only happen with good reason.]

## GCBA RESULTS

*The Winter Swiss Teams (now 12 teams) has had two rounds and the leading team is Allan & Judy Sanis, Roger Schofield & Keith Sharp, ahead of Wendy Angseesing & Mike Wignall, Joe A and Roger Jackson. Like these two, the next three teams have lost only exactly one match.*

*The Winter Pairs had one session, the winners of which were Tony Letts & Roger Schofield, followed by the Constables – who now are in the lead across the two sessions played.*

*The County Knock-Out saw exactly 8 teams turn up and the four head to head matches led to wins for the teams led by Patrick Shields, Roger Schofield, Alison Pritchard and Peter Waggett.*

*The County League had two matches last month, after which in Division One the best average is the Denning team with 37 VPs from two matches. Leading Division Two is Mary Jones' team (Cynthia Moore, Steve Sasanow & John Stirrup) with an average 14 VPs per match.*

*The Bredon Vale teams competition took place in October with 9 teams representing a variety of clubs around the county. The winners were (representing Gloucester) Simon Haliday & Barry Overton playing with Stewart Harrison & Tom Rowland, and in second place was a Stroud team.*

The second County match of the season was against Leicestershire, and we won all three matches, scoring 20-0 for the Dawes and the Porter, and then 16-4 for the Markham.

If ever you change your email address, please let us know : email [judy.sanis@gcba.org.uk](mailto:judy.sanis@gcba.org.uk)

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Contributions welcome - to Patrick Shields, editor@gcba.org.uk  
Check out the GCBA web site at [www.gcba.org.uk](http://www.gcba.org.uk)

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## County Championship Tollemache Cup

The County team goes out to battle for this in the middle of November. The last time we succeeded in the Qualifying Round was in 2013, but we have new players and new partnerships this year. The county squad has regular practice sessions (fourth Wednesdays at CBC) and this hand arose at a recent one ...

♠ J954	DLR W	♠ AKT73
♥ AQ73		♥ KJT
♦ J		♦ A643
♣ AJ95		♣ 2

West opened 1♣ at all tables and raised partners 1♠ response to 2♠. The key question is how East proceeds. Most Easts simply bid game and there the matter rested and they wrapped up 13 tricks when the spades broke 2-2.

One pair took a different approach, and by bidding slowly West was able to show a singleton diamond and this now made East very enthusiastic, and they quickly bid the slam. Over any sequence when opener supports responder's major, it is worth while playing at least one artificial asking bid, and here many top players use 2N to ask.

The responses to 2N can be very natural (and so easy to remember), bidding a new suit when you have raised with 3-card support (suggesting a 5431 shape) and rebidding either 3 of the major or more, on hands with 4-card support. Here a 2N ask would received a 4♦ response showing 4-card spades support and a singleton diamond – perfect!

Bidding slowly rather than jumping is the key.

More hands to read about in Hand-of-the-Day on the website, [www.gcba.org.uk](http://www.gcba.org.uk)

## Minibridge

For the Youth Bridge, but for other learning situations too, Minibridge has become a useful tool. If you want to give friends a quick introduction to bridge here are the steps to playing a deal of Minibridge after you have dealt four hands ...

1. Count your HCP and tell everyone.
2. The side with most HCP will declare.
3. The lesser (HCP) hand is laid as dummy.
4. Declarer chooses the denomination.
5. Declarer chooses the trick target (part-score, game or slam).
6. The opening lead is made - play proceeds.
7. The score comes from the chart (which has everyone non-vulnerable).

### Special Cases

8. If both sides have 20 HCP, we re-deal.
9. If both of declaring side have equal HCP, dealer or first after dealer will declare.

The County team this year for the Tollemache has Judy Sanis as non-playing captain, and pairings of

Joe Angseesing & Keith Stanley; John Atthey & Paul Denning; Richard Butland & Garry Watson, Richard Chamberlain & Patrick Shields.

The team has six of the ten players who were in the team when we won the trophy in 2007, and we have the same non-playing captain with us again!

## Best Conventions (2)

Last month the discussion was about takeout doubles. Second on my list of "conventions I would not want to be without" is actually a bundle, but they are almost inseparable – and it is "Stayman & Transfers".

The basic system is always applied to a 1N or 2N opener, but it is exactly what is required in many similar situations – for example a 1N or 2N natural overcall, or after a 2♣ opener rebids 2N (with this side having shown no suits).

In some circumstances one aspect or another might be redundant, for example transferring into spades after partner made a NT overcall of their spade bid. The system can be optimised to use these sequences but few people do that, as the memory burden is too much.

The real value of transfers doesn't come – as the early marketing suggested – from letting the other hand declare, but it comes from the extra bidding sequences which transfers opens up.

Because of this, the concept of transfers makes sense in many situations, and we see a large community now playing transfer responses to a 1♣ opening (it doesn't work over other openings) and transfers in many competitive situations. In those cases, transfers allow you to make a non-forcing bids in a suit (you next pass) or a forcing bid (you continue after partner accepts).

The one downside when you make a transfer is that the next hand can double to show the suit you have just bid. In practice, this risk has not affected our willingness to use transfers as often as we can.

All transfer bids need either announcing or alerting.