

GCBA NEWSLETTER

Season 2017-18

Oct 2017

PROGRAMME

For this month we have -

- Oct 2nd : Winter Teams 2
- Oct 9th : Winter Pairs 2
- Oct 16th : League 2
- Oct 23rd : County KO QF
- Oct 30th : League 3

GCBA WINTER PROGRAMME

The pattern you see above is repeated across many months. The fourth Monday is a single session event until we reach February, and the fifth Mondays in October & January are League Mondays.

The first weekend competition run by the GCBA is the Bredon Vale Cup at 1330 on Sunday 15th October. Clubs can enter up to 3 teams of four (at most one National Master or above), and there will be 25-30 boards played with a break for a sandwich tea. The cost is £20 per team.

The second weekend event is the Everett Cup on 5th November. Watch the website (www.gcba.org.uk) for details.

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

- Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th October are the days of the "Malvern" Congress being played this year in the heart of Worcester.

DIRECTORS' SEMINARS

The GCBA is organising a series of seminars for Tournament Directors (and anyone interested) to happen before play at Cheltenham Bridge Club on selected Fridays. The format will be a short briefing, followed by a Q&A session at which any topics of current interest can be raised.

The sessions will start at 1800 hrs, and the dates now in the diary are

- 27 October
- 8 December
- 26 January
- 9 March

Topics for discussion can be sent to Patrick through dirseminars@gcba.org.uk. The current list, in the order in which they are likely to be tackled, is

1. Role of regulations and the right attitude to these.
2. Experience with 2017 Law changes.
3. How to make the TD every players' friend.
4. Teams movements.
5. Changed cards, dropped cards, penalty cards.

TDs from club across the County are welcome to come, and if they want to stay on for a game of bridge, then CBC is happy to waive their normal visitors' fee!

Did you know : Clubs, say, youngsters renounced without question (5,4)

The first County match of the season saw a poor start, the highlight being a 10-10 draw for the Markham team. This was against Warwickshire who won the top two divisions last year!

GCBA RESULTS

The Winter Swiss Teams kicked off with 11 teams and the first two matches; the leading team is Richard Butland & Garry Watson, with Keith Stanley (and Patrick Shields as a sub). In second place was the "Angseesing" team – this time Martin McWilliam & Mike Wignall with two subs.

The Winter Pairs had one session, the winners of which were Roy Collard & Pam Pearce followed by Malcolm Green & Mike Lewis.

The County League, has started and the top score went to the Wearmouth team in Division One (a 20-0 win), while Mary Jones' team is leading Division Two after its 13-7 win.

In the County Ladies' Pairs 6 pairs competed and the winners were Mary Jones & Cynthia Moore (a record 5th win) ahead of Lesley Harrison & Pam Pearce (winners in 2015). In the County Men's Pairs 14 pairs competed and the winners were Paul Denning & Kanwar Rahim ahead of Tony Letts & Garry Watson.

In the Midlands Counties Pairs championship for the Edgar Foster Cup, the winners were our Ian & Val Constable. We also had 5th place in John Arblaster & Mel Barlow, but Warwickshire picked up the prize for overall best county performance.

Richard Butland's team has reached the last four in the prestigious Gold Cup, and will be playing the final stages on the weekend of 8-9 October. Matches can be watched on BBO.

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Discards & Signals

One of the trickiest things on any hand is to know whether your signals will be more help to partner or to declarer. We normally trust that partner is watching and declarer is not, but just sometimes ...

♠ A62	♠ K9873	♠ J54
♥ AK3	♥ T92	♥ 8765
♦ AKJ65	♦ 92	♦ Q743
♣ AQ	♣ KT3	♣ 95
	B 3	
	DLR S	
	VUL: EW	
	♠ QT	
	♥ QJ4	
	♦ T8	
	♣ J87642	

West was in 3N on a spade lead and ducked the first round but won the second. There were nine clear tricks and the obvious candidate for a tenth was the club finesse. The first step however was to cash the diamonds.

It was important here to cash them in the right order – to extract as many discards as possible from the opposition. So declarer played the ace, king, jack and over to the queen.

North had two discards to make and first threw the ♣3 (encouraging clubs) and then a heart, while South threw two non-descript clubs. This allowed West to re-assess the club finesse.

While false carding does happen, most defenders are remarkably honest in these positions. So declarer trusted that the club finesse was a waste of time, and proceeded by cashing the top two hearts and then – after checking that the club ace would never get lost - exited in spades. In the end position North had to lead a club into the AQ. Can we trust your signals next time we see you?

Gloucestershire Youth Bridge

In a joint venture with Cheltenham Bridge Club (phase 1, other locations later) the GCBA is launching GYB to give those still at school the chance to learn bridge in the County. This is a pre-cursor to having bridge taken up as an activity within schools, for which we need a certain critical mass with which to start.

The sessions will be running 0930-1215 on Sundays, starting on Sunday 29th October. The cost of a session is £5, to cover rent of the building and snacks; any profits will be put back into teaching materials.

We are also running FREE Taster Sessions during half-term to allow children and their parents and carers to learn a little about the game before planning a regular attendance. These are on Tue/Wed/Thu of that week (24-26 October) and are run at 1000 and 1130 each day. Young people can come to as many of these sessions as they like – we have plenty of variety of things to do.

If you know any good candidates to attend these sessions, please bring them along. If you are interested in helping, let us know by email to gyb@gcba.org.uk (which can be used for any GYB queries). There is now a GYB website to be found at

<http://www.bridgewebs.com/gloUCEstershireyouth/>

and from there you can obtain the poster advertising the Taster Sessions. If you know somewhere it would be worth showing this, please print off a copy and put it there.

More hands to read about in Hand-of-the-Day on the website, www.gcba.org.uk

Favourite Conventions

The challenge was made a little while back to name and order one's favourite conventions. There was no doubt about top of my list - it is the takeout double. Although everyone will use this on a regular basis, there are many occasions when it is not used and people are missing out because of this.

On the opening bid front, the most common omission is the use of double over a 4♥ or 4♠ opener as takeout. The world is bidding a lot more now than ever before (following the advice I've just been reading in Iain Macleod's 1952 book!) and if you don't have double for takeout you will lose points to those who have learned to pre-empt more vigorously.

In fourth seat after partner passes and you hear a suit response it is clearly for takeout, but this should also apply when third seat made a 1N response. In this case it is takeout of the suit opened (and should be alerted).

Another fourth seat position is when partner overcalls and third hand bids a natural 1N. Defeating this is notoriously difficult and doubling here for takeout (showing the other two suits) is very useful.

Even after we have found a fit, say it went 1♥-1♠-2♥-4♠, double for takeout is much better than bidding on, as partner might have four spades opposite your void, and doubling gives partner the chance to pass.

In my book, the occasions when double is for penalty can be easily listed : partner's redouble or a double of an opening 1N (or certain artificial bids) establish the desire to seek a penalty and after that double is not takeout. Otherwise takeout.