

GCBA NEWSLETTER

Season 2018-19

October 2018

PROGRAMME

For this first month of the new programme year, we have -

- Mon 1st : Swiss Teams 2
- Mon 8th : Winter Pairs 2
- Mon 15th : League 2
- Mon 22nd : County KO QF
- Mon 29th : League 3

For any of these Mondays apart from the League, you need only turn up as a pair if it is a pairs event, and as a foursome if a teams event. The County KO Qualifying Round will be a multiple teams game unless there are exactly 8 teams, in which case there will be an open draw for 28-board head-to-head matches.

IN OCTOBER ...

The first weekend event of the season run by the GCBA will be the Everett Cup, on Saturday 20th October. The event starts at 1100 hrs and will include lunch and a short tea break in the afternoon. The event is a teams event, but you enter as a pair and we will have a draw for team-mates (after the pairs have been allocated to one of two buckets). Everyone is welcome, so do come along to try something new.

BRIDGE AROUND GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Coming up in the near future ...

- On the 27th-28th is the Malvern Congress which takes place just north of Worcester. Swiss Pairs on the Saturday and Swiss teams on the Sunday. Details are [on the WCBA website](#).

World

Championships in Orlando, FL

The event started on 20th September and continues into October. In the main teams event – for the Rosenblum Cup – a team of four Englishmen reached the semi-final before being knocked out by the Italian Lavazza team. The four were Andrew Robson & Alexander Allfrey, Ed Jones & Tom Paske. Well done!

DON'T FORGET the Bridgathon event at Cheltenham Bridge Club, where you can drop in for any of the 6 sessions or just drop in to play a single 5-board match in between visits to the Literature Festival. On 12-14th Oct.

EBU SENIORS CONGRESS

It is not very often that the EBU runs a congress on our doorstep, but at the start of November (2nd to 4th) the EBU is running its 3-day Seniors Congress at the Hallmark Hotel in Gloucester. The congress has its main event over Friday and Saturday, but there are stand-alone events on the Saturday (Swiss Pairs) and on the Sunday (Swiss Teams). Well worth a visit. More details are [on EBU website](#).

Most club bridge games are matchpoint scoring, but where the computer does the scoring then teams scoring (imps or cross-imps) is an easy option. If you want to try this, but are unsure of the way forward, just ask Patrick (ctd@gcba.org.uk)

GCBA RESULTS

The Winter Swiss Teams started off with 14 teams playing two matches, after which the leaders were Croatian visitors led by David Hauser, and then comes the team of Roy Collard & Val Constable, Steve Evans & Patrick Phair.

The Winter Pairs started with 15 pairs and the leaders were Roy Collard & Pam Pearce with nearly 65%, followed by Tony Letts & Roger Schofield. There are four more sessions to come.

In the County League the first matches have taken place, with the biggest scores going to Alison Pritchard's team which now leads Division Two, and (in his absence) Joe Angseesing's team which now leads Division One.

The turnout for the Ladies' Pairs was poor and we merged the movement with the Men's Pairs; the final result was a win for Wendy Angseesing & Anne Swannell in the Ladies, and for Roger Jackson & Peter Waggett in the Men's.

EDGAR FOSTER

In the Midlands Counties Pairs Championship, we did very well, with John Councer and Mark Rogers taking first place, and our other representatives (Lesley Harrison & Ashok Kwatra, John Stirrup & Anne Swannell) doing well enough for the GCBA to capture for us the county trophy for overall performance.

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EXTREME SHAPE

The Weston Congress Swiss Pairs took place in September – there was no local success, but one of the hands was rather out of the ordinary. In third seat after I passed and a weak 2♥ opener on my left, partner held

♦ AKQJ953 ♣ QJ9743

and yes no hearts or spades. It doesn't take much from partner to make a slam (one top club) but partner could have a lot more which might be totally useless. There are two options with a hand like this – you can bid one suit then the other, or you can invoke the unusual NT (it has to be 4N here) to show both minors. The latter route suggests you want partner to make a choice of suit, but in fact you don't – your diamonds a good enough to insist on that suit – the only times clubs being better is when a diamond contract suffers a club ruff.

The traveller shows that 11 pairs out of 68 forced their way to a slam, but the hand opposite was ♠AQ652♥KT93♦82♣52 and the opposition had two top clubs to cash. Of the 42 pairs in 5♦, 28 had a top club lead from AK6 and 15 of those beat the contract by giving partner a ruff. Without a top club lead, you have to play the club suit for one loser, with the ♦8 as an entry to dummy (when the singleton ♦T appears on the opening lead). What is the best line in clubs?

The answer is to lead a high club from hand first, and then to lead from dummy, playing for split honours in clubs. Of those who had to play clubs for themselves, 10 out of 14 were successful.

If you play 4 sessions of bridge a week, you should expect to see a 7600 shape by some player, on average once a year.

County Match #1

The first match of the season was against Leicestershire and this was the last board of the 32-board match. It was the worst board for the Dawes team, their best board for the Porter team, and a flat board for the Markham team. Let's think what should have happened.

♠ 87		
♥ JT642		
♦ QT987		
♣ Q		
♠ AJ64		♠ K32
♥ AQ973	B 32	♥ K
♦ A5	DLR W	♦ 42
♣ 83	VUL: EW	♣ AKJ9765
♠ QT95		
♥ 85		
♦ KJ63		
♣ T42		

Each table started with 1♥ and after 2♣-2♠, everyone was in a game forcing auction. This means that East can continue with a forcing 3♣ bid, to show a 6+ card suit. It was at this point where opinions diverged. Some Wests looked no further than the fact of a diamond stop and bid 3N. This was passed and five declarers collected an embarrassing +720 score.

A better judgement over 3♣ is that 3N will be at a serious risk if partner has no help in diamonds, and bidding 3♦ as fourth suit forcing will get you to 3N when that is the right contract (and it might protect partner's ♦Qxx).

Over 3♦, East has no good answer, but there are two natural options available; 3♠ cannot be four or you would have supported on the previous round, so ♠Kxx will match expectations, and there is also the possibility of 4♣, for which the suit here is good enough.

After 3♠ the best option is for West to show a modicum of club support with 4♣. Whichever hand bids 4♣, the next hand should make a cue bid (4♦ by W or 4♥ by E) and after any positive move from partner the hand opposite is good enough to be bidding the slam.

Since the grand slam is a possibility, and you don't want to bid a grand slam missing a key-card, someone should roll out a 4N ask, and then it is easy to stop in 6♣.

This was achieved only by the two opposition pairs in the Dawes, while one of our pairs in the Porter managed to bid 6N (which only makes when 7N also makes!).

If you can consistently bid slams, please contact the County Team captain to let him know – we need you!

Best Conventions

The past 12 issues have covered the following which are listed here with the most important (to Patrick) first -

1. Takeout doubles
2. Stayman & transfers
3. Fourth Suit Forcing
4. Splinters
5. Two-suited overcalls
6. Lebensohl
7. Roman Key Card Blackwood
8. Checkback after NT rebid.
9. Jacoby 2N forcing raise
10. Kokish for game forcing flat
11. Two-suited defence to 1N
12. Unassuming cue bids

These are all needed to bid well at county level bridge.

Don't forget Hand-of-the-Day on the website changes every day!