

# GCBA NEWSLETTER

Season 2024-25

Oct 2024

## GCBA RESULTS

### Summer Open Teams 7

1<sup>st</sup> Alastair Catchpole, Patrick Shields, Ben Ritacca and Jack Armorgie.

2<sup>nd</sup> Tom Jarman, David Atthey, John Cuncer and Mark Rogers.

### Summer Open Teams 8

1<sup>st</sup> Kanwar Rahim, John Stirrup, Steven Sasanow and Nick Haynes.

2<sup>nd</sup> John Cuncer, Peter Waggett, Alison Pritchard and Ben Handley-Pritchard.

### **SUMMER TEAMS RANKING**

#### TOP OPEN SCORES

Alastair Catchpole : 55  
Nick Haynes, Kamwar Rahim & Steve Sasanow : 53

#### TOP 9-HIGH SCORES

Paul Grierson : 32  
Ian & Wendy Melvin : 31  
Paul Grierson : 29

### Autumn Teams (4 matches)

1<sup>st</sup> Richard Butland, Roy Collard, Paul Denning and Ben Ritacca.

2<sup>nd</sup> Jim Simons, Patrick Phair, Val Constable, Mike Wignall.

3<sup>rd</sup> Kanwar Rahim, John Stirrup, Steven Sasanow and Nick Haynes.

4<sup>th</sup> Jack Armorgie, Alastair Catchpole, Patrick Shields, Peter Waggett.

### County League

This year the County League is being run as a single division all-play-all event. After two matches, wins have been recorded by teams captained by Butland, Sanis, Shields, Simons, Kwatra and Lewis.

### Edgar-Foster Cup

Congratulations to Alastair Catchpole and Paul Denning on winning this competition – an event open to pairs from our neighbouring counties.

### Bredon Vale Cup

This is an annual match between teams from Cheltenham and Gloucester Bridge Clubs. It was won by a Cheltenham team - Roger Eaton, Carole Foulkes, Andrew Courtman and Marisa Percival.

## MIDLAND COUNTIES LEAGUE

The inter-counties league season has now started, and Gloucestershire made a successful start against Warwickshire. The Dawes team won 13-7, the Porter team drew 10-10 and the Markham team won 14-6. Congratulations to all the players who took part. This hand was interesting.

Both sides are vulnerable and against your 3N contract, West leads the six of diamonds. How do you proceed?

If East gets the lead, a club through will defeat you so you need to take 9 quick tricks in the form of five spades and four diamonds. What do you make of the opening lead?

♠ Q9854

♥ Q5

♦ AJ54

♣ 86

3NT by South

♠ AK7

♥ JT843

♦ KT9

♣ KJ

South	West	North	East
1♥	3♣	X	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

At the vulnerability, West almost certainly has 7 clubs, so the diamond is almost certainly from a short suit, hoping to hit partner's entry.

Having reached that conclusion, then you must play the Knave from dummy at trick one. If this is covered you have your four tricks in the suit and if it is ducked, as it was at the table, then you use the immediate entry to play a diamond to your ten. When this holds you again score four diamond tricks, and the spade suit behaves kindly to give you five more. Well done Steve Bunker who was the only player to solve the problem at the table!

## TOLLEMACHE TROPHY QUALIFIER

The following players have been selected to represent Gloucestershire in the inter-counties team-of-eight qualifier in November – Dan McIntosh and Patrick Shields, Paul Denning and Garry Watson, Richard Chamberlain and Andrew Kambites, Richard Butland and Rob Stevens, Alan Wearmouth and Ron Davies.

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## IMPROVER'S CORNER

Many players have difficulty with no-trump hands where it is necessary to establish tricks in more than one suit. Consider this deal.

♠ 62  
♥ QT7  
♦ A742  
♣ AT83

3NT by South

♠ AQ3  
♥ KJ4  
♦ K9  
♣ QJ962

West led the ♠7 to the Knave and declarer's Queen. Now South finessed in clubs and East won and returned a spade. The suit was cleared and eventually South had to play hearts which allowed West to win and cash his spades to beat the contract.

South followed the advice often given to beginners of 'going for your long suit first', which is fine provided the long suit is long enough to give you all the tricks for your contract. On this hand South could count 5 quick tricks and four more in clubs if the finesse worked, but if the finesse failed it would be necessary to establish a trick in hearts.

The danger is that by the time the lead is relinquished twice, the enemy will be able to set up and cash their spade winners. South's proper approach is to realise that whilst he held the Ace of spades, he could afford to let West gain the lead, but once spades were established, any tricks lost must be conceded to East.

West's only possible entry is the Ace of hearts so this entry must be attacked first. At trick two South leads the King of hearts. If this holds the trick, he

can now revert to clubs and make 4 clubs and 5 outside winners. It would be dangerous to continue hearts as East might have started with Axxx and clear the suit for himself.

If West wins the first heart and continues spades, declarer hold up until the third round and then finesses in clubs. If this loses to East, then he will either have no more spades or else the suit will have divided 4-4 and the defence only have 4 tricks.

Here is another example.

♠ K83  
♥ T65  
♦ AT742  
♣ K5

3NT by South

♠ A2  
♥ KQJ4  
♦ QJ5  
♣ A843

How do you play on the lead of the ♠Q?

You have 5 top tricks and if the diamond finesse loses you will be one trick short. West is the danger hand as it looks like he has long spades so attack his possible entry first. Hence win the lead in hand and play hearts at trick two.

If this is ducked, you are safe to continue the suit. Then when they win the heart Ace, you can hold up in spades until the third round and then cross to hand with a club to finesse diamonds. If this loses, East cannot get his partner in to cash any winning spades.

## AUGUST SOLUTION

♠ KJT73  
4♥ By West  
♥ 9732  
♦ Q4  
♣ KQ

♠ AQ94  
♥ A  
♦ T2  
♣ AT9542

South	West	North	East
1♣	1♥	Pass	1♠
2♣	2♦	3♣	3♥
Pass	4♥	All pass	

North leads the ♣3 to your Ace and declarer's ♣8. What is your plan for getting four defensive tricks?

Let's start by constructing declarer's hand. From the bidding and lead we know that declarer started with a singleton club and since partner might well have led a singleton spade if he had one, we can assume that declarer's shape is likely 2551.

He must hold at least KQxxx and AKxxx in the red suits to justify his bidding so we can discount partner having a diamond trick and declarer's second spade will disappear on dummy's club, so we are left with hoping that partner hold Jxx in hearts and that we can promote a second trump trick. Hence we play Ace and another spade to tricks 2 and 3. Then when we take the Ace of trumps we can play another spade to promote a trump trick for partner.

## OCTOBER PROBLEM

♠ A8642  
♥ A3  
♦ KQ8  
♣ KJ4

4♠ by West

♠ K953  
♥ Q4  
♦ AJT65  
♣ 65

How do you maximise your chances on the lead of ♥J from North?