

# GCBA NEWSLETTER

Season 2016-17

September 2016

## Programme

This month we have -

- Mon 5<sup>th</sup> : Winter Teams 1
- Mon 13<sup>th</sup> : Winter Pairs 1
- Mon 20<sup>th</sup> : League 1
- Mon 27<sup>th</sup> : Ladies and Men's Pairs

### GCBA MONDAYS WINTER COMPETITIONS

The pattern through the winter is Winter Swiss Teams on the first Monday, Winter Pairs on the second Monday, League on the third Monday, and an assortment of events on the fourth and fifth Mondays. For the teams events you just turn up as a foursome, although advance warning to the CTD ([ctd@gcba.org.uk](mailto:ctd@gcba.org.uk)) for any Swiss event is very helpful. For the pairs events, just turn up as a pair.

### CHELTENHAM YOUTH BRIDGE

This year EBED (the EBU Education and Development organisation) was not able to run its usual annual Junior Teach-In but Cheltenham Bridge Club stepped in with a replacement event this year on the weekend of Sat-Sun 3-4 September.

It was organised by Ro Kaye, with support of experts from around the country, and the visitors joined in with the CBC Saturday night bridge for a joint competition. There were ~80 juniors who came and stayed at the Ladies College, along with a cast of supporting adults.

## Bridge in Poland

A newly restarted set of World Championships is taking place in Wroclaw 3-17<sup>th</sup> September this year. There are four (Open, Womens, Seniors and Mixed) English teams involved, as well as teams from Ireland and Scotland.

You can monitor the progress through the EBU web site, or directly through

<http://www.worldbridge.org/2016-world-bridge-games.aspx>

and you will be able to watch the action live through Bridgebase by tuning in to

<http://www.bridgebase.com/>

## External Results

*In the EBU Interclub Knock Out the remaining Cheltenham team beat West-of-England but then lost to Amersham.*

*In the EBU Seniors KO, Richard Butland's team has reached the final, and the Garry Watson team (with Patrick Shields & Alan Wearmouth) has achieved its first win the next year's competition.*

*In the Gold Cup round 1, we had wins for one local team and defeats for two others.*

*In the Hubert Phillips (EBU Mixed Teams) the Constable team and the Rogers team have both won two matches and they now meet; the Harrison team does not wish to discuss their results.*

## GCBA Results

*After the last two rounds of the Summer Teams, Tony Letts was confirmed as the clear leader with 34 points, followed by Mike Wignall on 27 and then a three way tie (Richard Harris, Roger Schofield, Peter Waggett) in third place. A total of 43 individuals scored points over the series.*

*The fourth and final session of the Summer Swiss Pairs was held in August and with three wins that day Richard Chamberlain & Patrick Shields moved into the lead, and ended 21 VPs ahead of Tony Letts & Roger Schofield, followed by Mark Rogers & Peter Waggett and then the other 23 pairs.*

*We have had the final two sessions of Summer Pairs. The first of these was won by Ashok Kwatra & John Skjonnemand. The second was won by Richard Chamberlain & Patrick Shields. Over the series of four sessions, the winners were John & Ashok.*

*In the Victor Ludorum (most master points on Mondays, for non-Dawes-team players) the winner is Martin McWilliam with 1155, followed by Paul Lilley very close behind on 1141, and then Toby Roberts on 1087.*

## CALLING THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

Some of the most difficult problems a TD will see are those which come from players not calling the TD as soon as an issue arises, but trying to apply the Laws themselves. Applying the rules ahead of calling the TD can also create a lot of ill-feeling. Please call the TD as soon as an issue arises. The playing TD will be quite happy to attend; at worst you'll have to pause for a minute before the TD is free.

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## Summer Swiss Pairs

It was surprising that this hand from the last round – when EW held 32 hcp – was only played in slam at two of the eight tables, and only one of them made the contract ...

♠ AJT53		
♥ JT3		
♦ 2		
♣ 6543		
♠ Q6		♠ K982
♥ A984	B 2	♥ KQ
♦ A8	DLR : E	♦ KJ54
♣ AJT72	VUL : NS	♣ KQ8
♠ 74		
♥ 7652		
♦ QT9763		
♣ 9		

East opened either 1♦ or 1♠, and West bid 2♣, over which East showed a balanced 15+ hand with 2N. The value bid from the West hand is now 4N, allowing a stop there opposite a minimum. East is borderline for continuing, having a couple of extra hcp but KQ-doubleton isn't always full value. East might also be cautious because of the lack of aces.

There will be some deals when the club support comes into play, and in fact on this hand it provides an easy route to the twelfth trick, by taking one heart ruff in the short club hand. This makes 6♣ attractive as an option – and even though it is match-point pairs, if you can judge that few will bid the slam, then going for the less-scoring but safer slam is best.

In 6N the start of the play focuses on South. Against 6N your aim is nearly always to avoid giving away any tricks, so a diamond is too dangerous (it was led at the table which made 6N) and a heart looks safest.

Declarer could count ten top tricks plus one from the combined KQ of spades. The other options are a long spade, a long heart, and the diamond finesse. It is important to allow

all these chances, so an early move is to knock out the spade ace.

It is actually good news when the ♠Q loses to the ace, as now you can cash the ♠K before running the clubs, as now you know whether or not to discard spades. Today it is the heart suit which lies in your favour, but you need to watch to see the ten and jack drop and know the ♥9 is a winner.

And if it wasn't you still had a decent chance with a diamond finesse.

Notice that even defending 3N the diamond lead (found at five of the six tables) offers little chance of reward – partner needs to have three diamonds and the others two each to give you any chance – finding partner's suit represents much better odds in defending 3N.

## Summer Teams

This hand from the last session of the Summer teams had some interesting points to it.

♠ T5		
♥ AK9		
♦ 764		
♣ AT532		
♠ Q		♠ A76
♥ J76542	B 23	♥ Q8
♦ KT	DLR : S	♦ AQJ985
♣ KJ87	VUL : all	♣ 94
♠ KJ98432		
♥ T3		
♦ 32		
♣ Q6		

South with this shape was not worth a 3♠ opener, but an element of preemptive action can still be achieved by opening 2♠. So South opened 2♠ and it went P-P-3♦. South should not bid again and so passed, and West took a (correctly) positive view of his limited assets and tried 3♥.

North passed and the decision was now in East's court. It was only 13 hcp, but a decent 13 and a modicum of support for partner. So he tried 4♥ and that finished the auction.

North started off, as expected, with the ♠T. Declarer can see the inevitability of losing the two top trumps and the ♣A, and so must concentrate on losing no more than that

There are two heart layouts where the trump losers can be kept to two tricks : when one defender (surely only North on this bidding) has the AK (and possibly a third), and the other when North has a doubleton ace or king.

In all cases declarer must start trumps from hand, and so ruffs a spade at trick two and leads the ♥4. North wins and ponders. There is, at this point, only one way to beat the contract, and it doesn't involve setting up any tricks. Any idea how?

It's actually about depriving declarer of tricks, something with which we are very familiar when we lead trumps to stop declarer ruffing losers. Here, curiously, the tricks of which we can deprive declarer are the long diamonds.

North must switch to a diamond after the ♥K, and play another on winning the ♥A. The second round of the suit takes out declarer's last diamond and there is no longer any entry to dummy. He can cash one more for a club discard – but all routes now lead to either a ruff for the ♥9, or second club loser. Neat?

STOP PRESS : In Poland the England Open team won their first two matches and lost their third by only 3 imps; they lie in fourth position in their group, which is led by Poland.